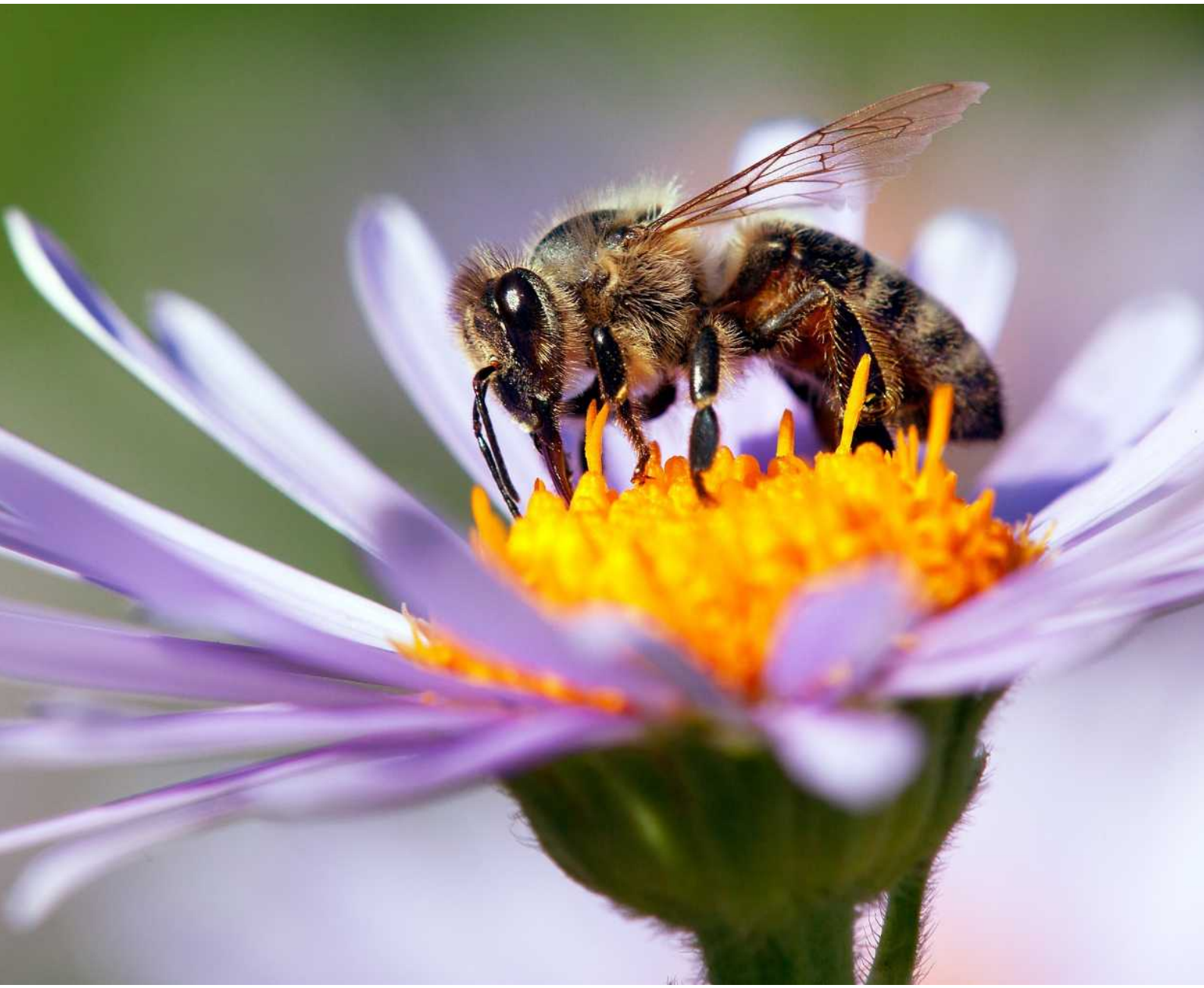
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Public Consultation Report and Analysis



Cambridgeshire County Council

Natural Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Introduction

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy overview

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are the new primary plans introduced to drive coordinated action for nature recovery and wider environmental benefits across England. First proposed in the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan (2019) and mandated by the Environment Act 2021, a total of 48 LNRSs will be prepared across the country, each led by a designated Responsible Authority.

For Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the Responsible Authority (RA) is the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), appointed by Defra to lead the development of the LNRS on behalf of the area. The CPCA has contracted the responsibility to Cambridgeshire County Council to develop the LNRS, in collaboration with Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership) as a key partner, and a wide range of partners and stakeholders including Land Use Consultants (LUC), Natural Capital Solutions and Supporting Authorities (six constituent local authorities).

For more information on the role of LNRSs, please refer to the Government's policy paper on Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Cambridgeshire County Council

Natural Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Draft strategy and public consultation

LNRS draft

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out shared priorities for restoring and enhancing nature across the region. It identifies key actions and maps opportunities where measures will deliver the greatest benefits for wildlife, people, and the local environment. Developed in partnership with local authorities, land managers, environmental organisations, and community stakeholders, the strategy reflects both national policy requirements and local expertise.

The ambition is for the LNRS to become an invaluable tool to guide action, enabling public, private, and voluntary sectors to work together more effectively, focusing efforts where they will provide the most benefit for wildlife, communities, and the wider environment.

The consultation draft was shaped through extensive collaboration to ensure that proposed measures are ambitious yet achievable.

More detail on the strategy, including maps and priority actions, can be found on the Natural Cambridgeshire website: **www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk**

The public consultation

The public consultation was held to provide residents and stakeholders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft LNRS. This is to help ensure that the Strategy best reflects local opportunities, concerns, and priorities. The consultation also fulfils the statutory duty for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to consult on its local nature recovery strategy.

The consultation invited feedback through a range of channels. Respondents could complete an online survey, which gathered views on the proposed priorities, actions, and mapping. This included use of an interactive map, enabling respondents to comment on specific locations, suggest additions or removals, and provide general feedback. The survey was also available to complete as a hard copy on request, ensuring wider accessibility. In addition, participants provided more detailed responses via email and letter, allowing both structured and open-ended contributions to be captured.

Hard copies of the survey were made available in all 33 libraries across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough along with pre-paid envelopes to return the surveys, as well as printed maps and leaflets explaining the context for the LNRS.

The main stakeholder engagement partner has been Natural Cambridgeshire who were involved in setting up and attending events along with the LNRS Production Team, as well as online briefings to the farming communities and other stakeholders.

Engagement events held during the public consultation included drop-in sessions at six libraries, a Youth Fusion event at Isleham, a Health & Wellbeing Event at Soham, and a Nature Festival at Kingfishers Bridge Nature Reserve. At these sessions, people could ask questions about the consultation and receive assistance in completing a response. In total, 144 people were directly engaged at these events.

Additionally, the LNRS consultation was advertised via the Natural Cambridgeshire website, Cambridgeshire County Council websites and Cambridgeshire County Council social media channels. Newsletters notifying people of the consultation were sent out to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy mailing list of around 1100 contacts and Natural Cambridgeshire advertised the consultation via their own newsletter of around 700 contacts. The survey was promoted through a range of other channels, working in partnership with organisations such as the NFU, CLA, parish councils and local environmental groups.

The public consultation has been central to shaping the strategy. Engagement across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has provided valuable feedback from individuals, landowners, organisations, and communities. This collaborative approach will ensure the draft reflects a broad range of perspectives, strengthening the ambition, deliverability, and shared ownership of the final LNRS.

Public Consultation Report and Analysis

This report reviews the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery (LNRS) public consultation survey responses for the public consultation period from 18 July until 11 September 2025. There have been 358 completed surveys. Additionally, there were 5 survey submissions that were submitted after the closing date and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS team received 46 email or letter responses.

These submissions and emails are addressed in the section Additional submissions. These were also reviewed by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery (LNRS) team, and in several cases involving direct submissions, follow-up dialogue has taken place.

The average number of survey submissions for an LNRS public consultation is reported as 220; the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough response exceeds this, with 358 total completed surveys (plus additional submissions as above).

This document looks to provide summary analysis of the data to identify trends, interpret the significance of the data and highlight key insights. Please also refer to appendices provided, which includes full and filtered exports of raw data with some free text sections tagged by themes.

Contents

Executive summary

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Public Consultation was open from 18 July to 11 September 2025 and received 358 completed survey responses. In addition, a total of 46 email or letter responses were submitted to the LNRS team by way of input to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS. Of these, 30 email and letter responses warranted full review (alongside 5 additional survey submissions as detailed below), and this feedback was summarised as part of the Additional submissions analysis in the main report.

There were also 5 survey submissions that were submitted after the closing date for submissions. While not included in the quantitative and qualitative data analysis of the main report, these have also been reviewed within the Additional submissions analysis.

The consultation sought to gather views on the vision, priorities, actions and mapping to shape the final strategy. This report summarises emerging themes, notable trends and key findings.

General support for the LNRS

Feedback shows a strong level of support for the LNRS, with 74.0% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing that the strategy clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region. Many respondents praised its ambition, clarity of aims and recognition of local priorities, and offered additional sites, species and actions for inclusion.

Support for habitat actions and priorities was also prevalent, with a strong trend of agreement across the various habitat types, particularly rivers, streams and drains (89.4% total agreement with priorities, 84.8% with actions), while urban landscapes had the lowest but still substantial agreement (77.7% total for priorities, 78.0% for actions).

The responses suggest endorsement of the proposed framework and indicates that the priorities and actions were broadly correct. The frequency of additional suggestions shows that respondents wish to see priorities expanded and refined to capture locally relevant opportunities, with some additional actions proposed to strengthen the LNRS. Suggestions included the need for joined-up approaches across habitats, greater emphasis on chalk streams, floodplain meadows, hedgerows, urban green spaces, and more ambitious support for regenerative farming practices.

Strong endorsement for species priorities and actions was also received, with 82.2% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing with the proposed species list, and 80.3% strongly agreeing or agreeing with the associated actions. Multiple recommendations for additional species are highlighted for exploration, including suggestions for added species groups, such as invertebrates, fungi and amphibians, demonstrating the value of focusing on habitats to support species recovery. Only a small number of responses suggested removals from the species lists, generally relating to feasibility or local presence.

The high levels of agreement across habitats and species priorities/actions demonstrate notable approval for the strategy's objectives and underscore a positive public appetite for ambitious nature recovery efforts in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

From vision to delivery

While figures indicate a high level of support for the overall vision of the LNRS, reservations were consistently raised about funding, delivery mechanisms, accountability, and enforcement, as well as pressures from housing and infrastructure development. These issues point to a gap between broad public endorsement of the LNRS' aims and the level of trust in its implementation, potentially highlighting the need for stronger assurances and practical detail on how actions will be achieved.

Demographic patterns

The majority of the 358 survey responses (69.6%) were submitted by individuals, with 30.4% submitted on behalf of organisations. Of the 35 additional submissions reviewed (30 email and letter responses combined with 5 survey submissions submitted after the closing date of 11 September 2025), 6 were submitted by individuals and 29 were submitted on behalf of organisations. Quantitative results in the main report do not include additional submissions.

- **Disparity in responses across sectors:** there is a notable difference in response levels across sectors, with low engagement from utilities or infrastructure providers and from developers / house builders.

- **Age:** the majority of respondents were aged 45 or older (79.2%), with very limited engagement from younger age groups (0.6% under 24). The distribution of demographic age points to the need for targeted outreach to specifically engage younger audiences moving forward.

- **Gender:** it is noted there was a slightly higher participation from females (51.8%) than males (39.3%), with an additional number of respondents preferring not to say, or to self-describe.

- **Ethnicity:** there appears to be limited diversity in respondents' indicated ethnicities, with 86.0% of respondents identified as 'White'. Further outreach could help to diversify responses and ensure broader representation in future consultations, as well as in nature recovery activity moving forward.

- **Locations:** all districts/locations were represented, with the largest proportion from South Cambridgeshire (38.8%), followed by Peterborough City (14.8%) and Cambridge City (13.1%).

Demographic feedback

As a demographic, individuals generally expressed a higher agreement that the strategy clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region (77.1% strongly agreeing or agreeing), compared with organisations (66.7%). While the figures differ, both remain broadly supportive, though this should be seen in the context of a much higher proportion of organisations selecting neutral responses (22.9% compared with 13.9% of individuals). Levels of disagreement were similar across the two groups, at around 10% (total 9.0% of individuals and 10.5% of organisations), suggesting that the main difference lies not in opposition but in the greater caution or neutrality shown by organisations.

Farmers and landowners are a key stakeholder group given their central role in delivery, with responses from this stakeholder group representing 18.3% of organisational respondents, and 5.6% of all respondents. Feedback showed varied levels of support, with a total 35.0% agreeing that the LNRS sets out how to improve nature recovery, 35.0% indicating neutrality, and 30.0% strongly disagreeing or disagreeing. Comments frequently emphasised the need for more direct consultation with landowners, alongside concerns about mapping accuracy, the practical deliverability of proposals, and the wider implications of the strategy.

Response rates

The consultation survey was designed to be flexible, allowing respondents to choose which sections to complete and whether to continue after the initial questions. Of the 358 respondents, 64.0% chose to continue with further questions while 36.0% opted out at question 5. As a result, not all sections were completed by all respondents. Additionally non-response rates varied across the remainder of the survey, with the lowest response rate being 5.6% on a later mapping question. This variation is typical of public consultations and reflects different levels of confidence, relevance, or engagement with the topics. It is important to take these patterns into account when interpreting the results, as non-responses may indicate consensus, neutrality, or even survey fatigue.

Further insights

Mapping

While over half (56.1%) agreed that the Local Habitat Map reflects important areas, 21.8% expressed disagreement and 22.2% were neutral. Respondents identified omissions, corrections, and classification issues. The feedback suggests the mapping was largely ‘on the right track’ but required refinement including the recognition of additional locations and sites such as chalk streams, urban green spaces, allotments and churchyards.

232 respondents provided shapefiles or comments on mapping additions or removals. There were significantly more suggested additions (120 shapefiles, 127 comments) than removals (37 shapefiles, 46 comments), indicating an active interest in improving the evidence base. The number of suggested additions compared with removals appears to indicate that respondents see the maps as a useful tool but want them to be more comprehensive and locally accurate.

The LNRS team have reviewed all the mapping submissions from the consultation and shapefiles were collated into a single QGIS project for analysis. Evaluation panels, including representatives from the Combined Authority, County Council, local ecologists and the Wildlife Trust BCN, reviewed each proposed addition and removal, against criteria and recording decisions and rationale. A number of mapping changes have been agreed. and these will be detailed on the finalise LNRS.

In addition to the mapping submissions, numerous references to sites and locations were made across other sections of the survey. These have all been captured and tagged for review.

Mapping challenges

A number of comments focused on usability of the mapping software, with some finding the maps difficult to interpret at local scale or when zooming in, and others calling for clearer presentation of overlapping habitat actions. Many emphasised the need for regular updates, ground-truthing and consultation with farmers, landowners, conservation groups and other stakeholders to ensure greater accuracy as well as collaboration. Alongside these concerns, several respondents praised the maps for their strategic intent and the value of identifying areas of opportunity, recognising them as a useful foundation to guide future action.

Agreement vs confidence

The majority of respondents supported the LNRS vision, with 74.0% strongly agreeing or agreeing that the strategy clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region. In contrast, 9.5% strongly disagreed or disagreed, and 16.6% expressed neutrality. The consultation appears to highlight a gap between support for the vision, priorities, and actions, and the level of confidence expressed in their delivery. The high proportion of supportive responses indicates that the LNRS vision is broadly understood and welcomed, however, concerns about deliverability and clarity of responsibilities are consistent and warrant attention in the next iteration of the strategy.

Barriers to delivery

Funding, resourcing, monitoring, and enforcement were consistent concerns expressed by respondents, alongside doubts about integration with wider planning and development pressures.

Engagement and inclusivity

Responses were weighted towards older and White demographics, with limited engagement from younger people or diverse communities. Targeted outreach is suggested in order to engage underrepresented groups. Calls were also made for stronger involvement of public entities such as schools, communities, and local groups.

Strategy presentation

Feedback on the presentation of the LNRS was mixed. Some praised the document as comprehensive, detailed, and well thought-out but many others criticised its length, complexity, and perceived repetition, describing it as difficult to navigate and unclear in places. Several respondents suggested that this may reduce accessibility and limit engagement, with calls for shorter summaries, clearer wording, and additional supporting materials to make the strategy more user-friendly.

Conclusion

The consultation shows strong public and stakeholder support for the ambition of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS. Confidence in delivery appears lower, reflecting widespread concerns about funding, enforcement and competing land-use pressures. Moving forward, collaboration, targeted outreach, and practical mechanisms for implementation will be essential to realise the strategy's ambitious nature recovery goals.

Please note:

Rounding has been applied to data within both the executive summary and main report. Percentages shown are calculated out of the response numbers for each given specific survey question and may not always be calculated out of a total 358 survey responses. Please refer to the main report Public Consultation Report and Analysis for more details.

The executive summary is intended as an overview. Please also refer to the Public Consultation Report and Analysis.

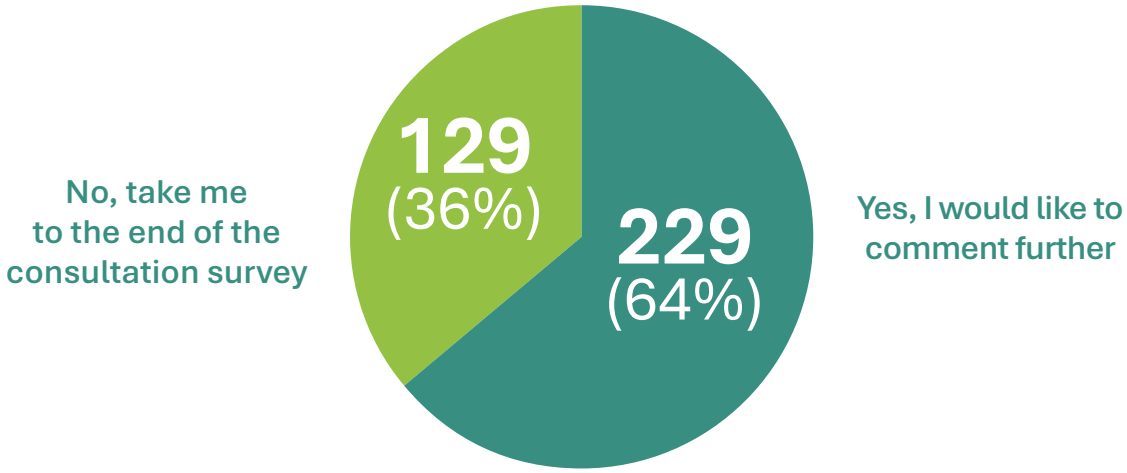
Response rates

Respondents choosing to continue or opt out and no responses

The survey was designed to give respondents flexibility in how they shared their views. Participants could choose which sections to complete, skip questions if they preferred, and decide at question five whether to continue or end their input. This approach aimed to make participation accessible and inclusive, accommodating different levels of engagement.

Would you like to answer further questions on the local nature recovery strategy?

All 358 respondents provided a response to this question:



As the survey questions were optional, some respondents chose not to complete all sections. This flexibility enabled participation at different levels, but it also resulted in non-responses that must be acknowledged, since overlooking them may give a misleading impression of the figures. Overall, 36.0% of respondents opted out of answering later questions, which limits the depth of feedback in some areas. In addition, non-response rates varied across the survey – with the lowest response rate being 5.6% (question 38 relating to mapping). Such variation is common in public consultations and may reflect areas where respondents felt uncertain, unqualified, had nothing further to add, or did not feel connected to the topic.

This variation in response completion should be taken into account when interpreting the overall figures. Non-responses may carry meaning in themselves: they could suggest broad consensus, neutral or positive agreement that did not prompt further comment, or simply survey fatigue. Recognising these factors underlines the importance of nuanced interpretation when assessing both responses and non-responses.

Respondents & demographic overview

This section reviews the demographic profile of participants in the public consultation survey. In total, 358 survey responses were received, representing a diverse range of individuals, organisations, and community groups. The following analysis provides an overview of respondents who took part, helping to contextualise the feedback and highlight the breadth of engagement achieved through the consultation process.

Summary of respondents

Overview of numbers of respondents

A total of 358 responses were provided to the consultation survey, which represented a mix of individuals and organisations and a spread of age groups. Respondents were also asked to give an indication of their gender, ethnicity identity and any long-term disabilities or health impairments, as well as how they had heard about the consultation.

A breakdown of these demographic fields can be found below.

The consultation achieved a reasonable number of responses and reflects a good spread of contributions from across the community. While not every section was completed by all respondents, the overall number of responses is sufficient to provide a meaningful dataset. This allows for useful statistical analysis and the identification of trends, offering valuable insight into perspectives on the LNRS.

Type of respondents

All 358 respondents provided a response to this question.

Are you responding as:

249
69.6%
As individual

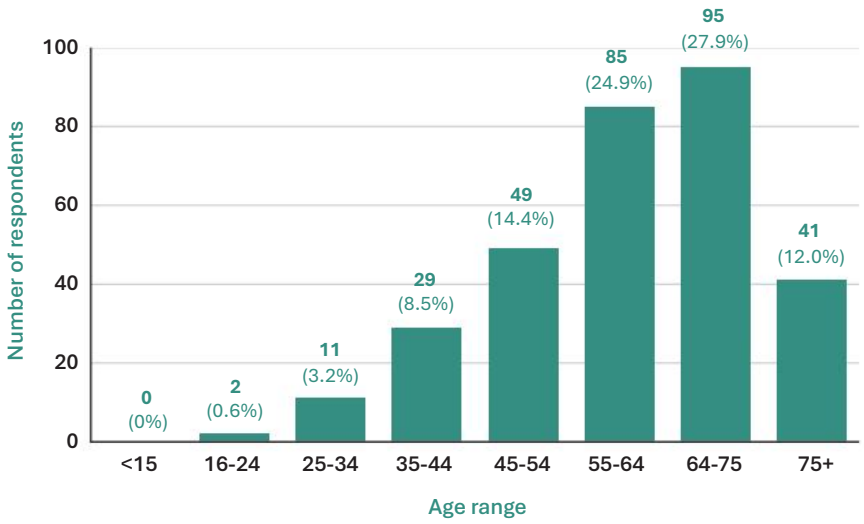
109
30.4%
An organisation
(not as an individual)

Please see later section for further breakdown of respondents completing the consultation as an organisation, which includes a list of organisation names/details where stated.

Age groups

There were 341 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation, with 17 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 341 responses.

What is your age?



29 (8.5%) respondents selected 'Prefer not to say'.

Responses show a far higher level of engagement with a demographic aged 45 and above (270 respondents, 79.2%) compared with those aged 44 and below (42 respondents, 12.3%) and particularly those aged below 24 (2 respondents, 0.6%).

The distribution of demographic age points to the need for targeted outreach to specifically engage younger audiences moving forward.

Overview relating to disability, impairment or long-term health condition

There were 336 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation, with 22 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 336 responses.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment or long term health condition?

39
11.6%
Yes

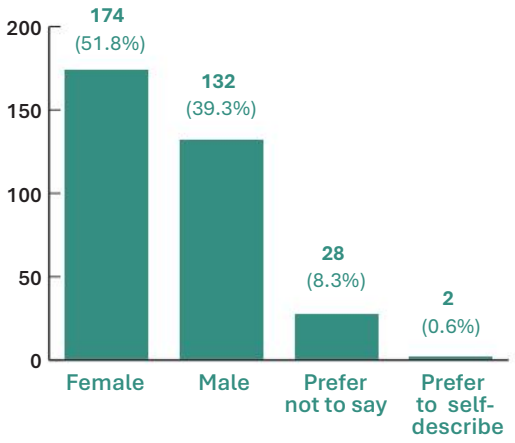
264
78.6%
No

33
9.8%
Prefer not to say

Gender identity

There were 336 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation, with 22 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 336 responses.

What gender would you describe yourself as?

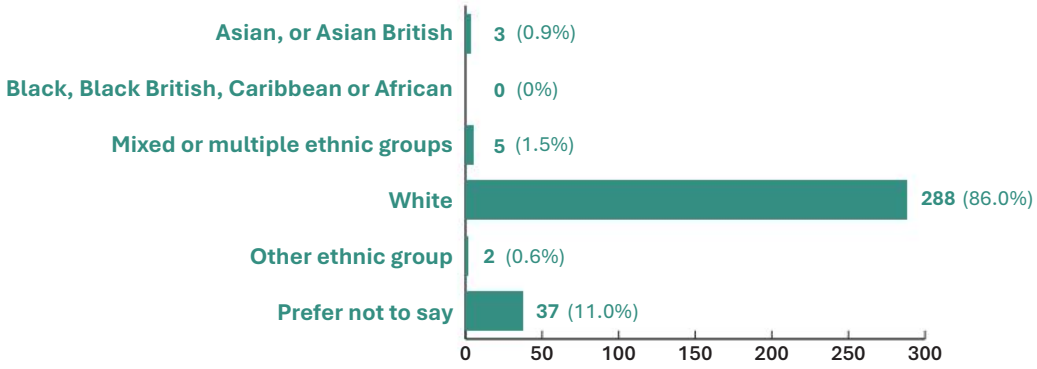


The responses indicate a higher level of engagement with a female demographic (51.8%) than with a male one (39.3%). Those indicating a preference to self-describe did not provide further clarification in the free text field that followed.

Ethnicity identity

There were 335 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation, with 23 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 336 responses.

What is your ethnicity?



Responses show that a high majority of respondents described their ethnicity as 'White' (86.0%) and highlights a potential lack of engagement with other ethnicity groups which collectively equate to only 3.0% of respondents. Further outreach could help to diversify responses and ensure broader representation in future consultations and in nature recovery activity moving forward.

How did you find out about the consultation?

All 358 respondents provided a response to this question.

How did you find out about this survey?

Location	Respondents
Bluesky	**0** (0%)
Cambs Gov website	**20** (5.6%)
Cambs & P'Boro CA website	**18** (5.0%)
Cambs CC or partner email	**45** (12.6%)
County or District councillor	**11** (3.1%)
Environmental organisation or newsletter	**68** (19.0%)
Facebook	**40** (11.2%)
Friends / family	**46** (12.9%)
Instagram	**1** (0.3%)

Location	Respondents
Library	**13** (0.9%)
LinkedIn	**1** (0.3%)
Local community news item	**22** (6.2%)
NFU, CLA, other farming org	**2** (0.6%)
Natural Cambs website	**8** (2.2%)
Parish or Town Councillor	**21** (5.9%)
TikTok	**0** (0%)
X (formerly Twitter)	**2** (0.6%)
Other	**40** (11.2%)

If other, please specify (stated as provided on the survey – removing individuals names):

- Probably one of the organisations I belong to: Wildlife Trust, RSPB
- St Ives EcoAction
- Leaflet on noticeboard
- XX at a Fens for the Future meeting told me
- neighbour
- BBC online news item
- Newspaper (Cambridge Independent)
- Whatsapp group
- Cambridge Carbon Footprint
- Natural England *(appears twice)*
- Newsletter to Parish Clerk from LNRS
- Peterborough City Council website
- Landowner next to us is a farmer and an organisation he is involved in let him know *(appears twice)*
- Ely Diocese ministry mailing
- Cannot remember
- Langdyke trust
- Protect Rural Peterborough Action Group
- SWIFTS LOCAL NETWORK
- Kingsway Solar Community Group
- Email link

- South Cambs magazine *(appears twice)*
- Fenland Soil
- Cambridge Radio
- Email list of Natural Cambridgeshire
- Sawston Scene
- Also from the Vicar
- Google search for information on solar farms
- Member of the WRPS
- I am a staff member of an organisation which has been involved in the strategy's development.
- Was asked to comment as the ICB or NHS partners had not yet sent a response
- Word of mouth from the New Life on the Old West project team at end of August
- Flyer in local library
- From client
- Discussion with local agent
- Email from a colleague. It is disappointing that I wasn't informed directly as a county recorder.
- It was mentioned in passing in a talk. I actively sought it out on Peterborough Council website but it was before the consultation period and I could find nothing useful. I sought it again today, to find it's the last day of consultation period. URGH!
- Community group

It should be noted that while the majority of the above free text submissions were given alongside a ticked 'other' response, some were given alongside a different ticked response (for example, the free text response 'Also from the vicar' was provided alongside a ticked response of 'Parish or Town councillor').

Observations

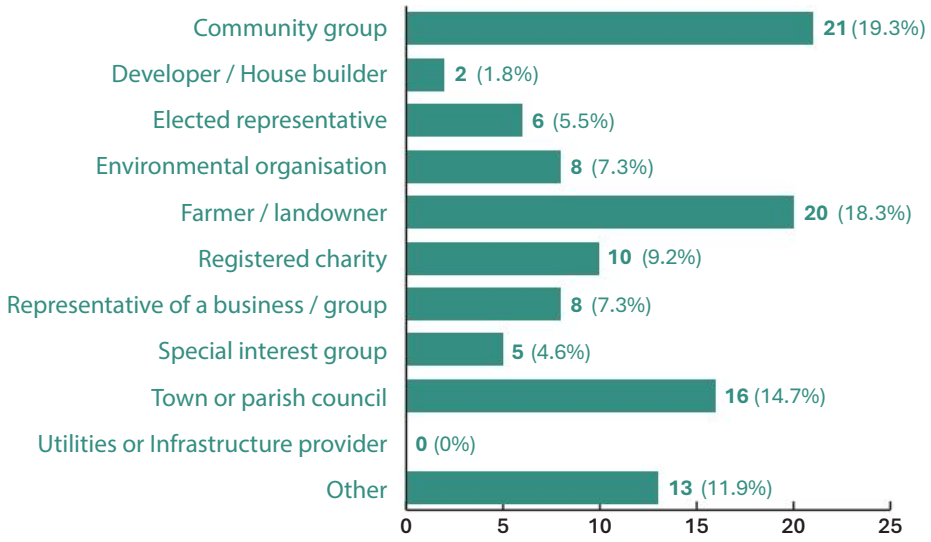
All respondents provided an answer to the question on how they found out about the consultation, offering a useful picture of the reach and effectiveness of different communication channels. The most common sources were environmental organisations or newsletters (19.0%), friends or family (12.9%), Facebook (11.2%), and 'other' sources (11.2%), with council or partner emails also playing a notable role (12.6%). The responses also illustrate the diversity of routes by which information circulated, from formal organisational communications to personal conversations, reinforcing the importance of using a mix of channels to engage a wide cross-section of the community.

Organisations / 'others'

In this section the demographic responding to the consultation survey as an organisation (those respondents that did not select 'Individual' to this question) is looked at in closer detail.

Respondents completing the consultation survey as an organisation equates to 109 responses (30.4%), out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation. The percentages below are calculated out of 109 responses.

Organisation type



If other, please specify (stated as provided on the survey):

- U3AC Green Party
- NHS ICS
- Church
- Planning agent
- The largest national representative organisation for shooting and conservation
- Environmentalist
- Catchment partnership
- Individual, member of Wild Burwell, Assistant Churchwarden at St Mary's Church, member of Spring Close and Priory Meadow Management Committee
- NHS England Regional Net Zero Programme Lead
- City Council
- Retained Planning Consultants acting for the below
- Planning Consultant acting on behalf of landowner (St John's College, Cambridge)
- University / Landowner

The majority of organisational submissions were on behalf of a community group (21 responses, 19.3%), from a farmer / landowner (20 responses, 18.3%) or representing a town or parish council (16 responses, 14.7%).

Organisation details

Below is a full list of all organisation names, where these were provided by respondents completing the consultation survey on behalf of an organisation (those respondents that did not select 'Individual' to this question). This equates to 87 free text comments (out of a possible 109 respondents as detailed in the previous section).

- Brampton Flood Action Group
- Buckden Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust
- Rutland Natural History Society
- Four Cs MAT / Ken Stimpson Academy
- Peterborough City Council
- County Councillor
- Coton Loves Pollinators
- The Froglife Trust
- Environment Bank
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB
- Cambridgeshire Mammal Group
- Insect specialist – Nature Recovery Group – Cottenham
- Willingham Parish Council
- Cottenham Parish Council
- Sustainable Cottenham
- The Floodplain Meadow Partnership (Open University)
- Church of England
- Cambourne Church Jubilee Garden
- Bluntisham Parish Council
- Platinum Wood Whittlesey
- Town Councillor at Northstowe Town Council (responding individually)
- Gamlingay parish Council
- BGO Newton Propco Limited care of Stantec
- Friends of Little Acre Fen Pocket Park
- Grantchester Parochial Church Council
- Cheffins
- Mepals Nature Recovery Group
- Haslingfield Parish Council
- Wisbech Town Council
- Fulbourn Swifts Group
- Little Downham Conservation Volunteers
- Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust
- Stantec UK Limited on behalf of The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society (RLMIS)
- Werrington Neighbourhood Council
- The British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- Isleham Parish Council

- Fulbourn Forum
- Bassingbourn Zero Carbon Collective
- Maydencroft Limited on behalf of BNG Partners LLP
- St Neots Town Council
- River Mel Restoration Group
- Cam Catchment Partnership (rivercam.org.uk)
- Waldersey Farm Ltd
- National Trust
- Shepreth Parish Council
- Sustainable Shepreth
- National Farmers Union
- Milton Parish Council
- Horseheath Parish Council
- Climate Change Gardening (a charity)
- Haddenham Conservation Society
- See above
- Kingsway Solar Community Action
- A M & E A Davis & Son
- Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group
- Wildlife Trust BCN
- Studio With No Name
- Wilbraham River Protection Society
- Abbey People
- Nene Coppicing and Crafts (based Peterborough)
- Catworth Parish Council
- Histon & Impington Green Spaces
- Wimblington & Stonea Parish
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridgeshire Geological Society and GeoPeterborough
- Great Ouse Valley Trust
- North Barton Road Landowners Group
- J.F. Wilderspin and Son
- Savills (UK) Ltd
- Lichfields on behalf of Greycoat for Juniper Propco (Bourn) Limited
- xx (Senior Planning Director – RPS) on behalf of Persimmon East Midlands
- Though this is my personal view, I am the UK Lead for IUCN/WCPA's Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group; Cambridge Conservation Forum's Connectivity Conservation Special Interest Group's Chair and a Research Associate for the Center for Large Landscape Conservation.
- Swifts Local Network: Swifts & Planning Group
- Great Ouse Rivers Trust (GORT)
- Church Commissioners for England c/o Deloitte LLP
- Church Commissioners for England c/o Deloitte LLP – response no.2
- FCC Environment Ltd
- RSPB
- Duxford Parish Council
- The University of Cambridge

- Nene Park Trust
- Linton Friends of the River Granta
- Weston Colville Parish Council
- Friends of Duxford Green Spaces

The following organisation names were also provided in response to this question, however, please note these were submitted by respondents that had previously categorised themselves as an 'Individual'; this equates to 7 free text comments:

- FWAG East
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Cambridgeshire CC
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Vicar of Chatteris
- Volunteer for River Mel Restoration group
- I am a member of Histon & Impington Green Spaces and HI Trees and I have connections with the Parish Council, but I am responding as an individual and not on behalf of any of these organisations.

The foregoing is stated as provided on the survey – removing individuals' names.

Observations

A total of 109 responses (30.4% of all participants) were submitted on behalf of organisations, representing a wide cross-section of community and sector interests. Community groups (19.3%), farmers and landowners (18.3%), and town or parish councils (14.7%) made up the largest proportions, indicating strong engagement from locally rooted organisations with direct connections to land use and community life. Charities (9.2%), environmental organisations (7.3%), and business or group representatives (7.3%) also contributed notable input, alongside smaller numbers of special interest groups (4.6%) and elected representatives (5.5%). Developers and house builders were underrepresented at just 1.8%, and no survey responses were received from utilities or infrastructure providers. Overall, the profile suggests a good breadth of organisational engagement, though with gaps in participation from certain sectors that may play a significant role in future delivery of the LNRS.

Individuals vs organisations

Individuals accounted for 249 (69.6%) of all respondents. Of these, 245 gave an indication of their level of agreement about whether or not the LNRS clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region, of which 77.1% expressed a sentiment of agreement (31.8% strongly agree, 45.3% agree), 13.9% indicated neutrality and 9.0% expressed a sentiment of disagreement (3.3% strongly disagree, 5.7% disagree).

Organisations accounted for 109 (30.4%) of all respondents, which includes those who selected 'other'. Of these, 105 gave an indication of their level of agreement about whether or not the LNRS clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region, of which 66.7% expressed a sentiment of agreement (14.3% strongly agree, 52.4% agree), 22.9% indicated neutrality and 10.5% expressed a sentiment of disagreement (1.0% strongly disagree, 9.5% disagree).

Observations from the above numerical data:

- Individuals showed a higher level of agreement (77.1%) than the organisations (66.7%)
- Organisations showed a higher level of disagreement (10.5%) than the individuals (9.0%)
- A higher proportion of organisations indicated neutrality to this question (22.9%) than within the individuals (13.9%)

The above observations are anecdotally perhaps to be expected, given the differences between the two demographics in question; that is to say a higher level of disagreement indicated from the organisations is perhaps not surprising. Respondents participating as an organisation may perhaps be approaching the survey with a more critical eye, with a specific knowledge base or ecological experience informing their responses, or, as this demographic includes farmers/landowners, may have a vested, financial interest in LNRS actions which may impact plans on their land.

In contrast, while participating individuals can be expected to be knowledgeable and provide useful information and opinions on the LNRS, may have more of a general personal interest in sharing their views.

With this assumption, however, it is perhaps surprising that the indicated level of neutrality is higher in organisations, where you might expect opinions to be more decisive – but a lower level of neutrality from individuals is encouraging and indicates a notable level of engagement with the LNRS.

Area analysis of respondents

Where respondents live

All 358 respondents provided a response to this question. It should be noted that responses to this question comprise 249 from individuals and 109 from organisations. Where responses are provided from organisations, this may either reflect the place the respondent lives or the location of their organisation – OR may be a combination of these two options (depending on the interpretation of the respondent themselves).

For the purposes of this report, all responses to this question will be treated as the location in which the respondent lives, not the location in which respective organisations are based.

Where do you live?

Location	Respondents
Cambridge City	**47** (13.1%)
East Cambridgeshire	**37** (10.3%)
Fenland	**19** (5.3%)
Huntingdonshire	**44** (12.3%)
Peterborough City	**53** (14.8%)
South Cambridgeshire	**139** (38.8%)
Outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	**19** (5.3%)

Observations

Responses were received from across the county, with the largest proportion coming from South Cambridgeshire (38.8%), followed by Peterborough City (14.8%) and Cambridge City (13.1%). Huntingdonshire (12.3%) and East Cambridgeshire (10.3%) were also well represented, while smaller numbers came from Fenland (5.3%) and respondents living outside the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area (5.3%). This distribution shows that while engagement was achieved across all districts, South Cambridgeshire contributed a notably higher share of responses. This may reflect both higher levels of outreach and interest in local land-use and nature recovery issues in that district.

Strategy feedback

Review of sentiment

Do you agree or disagree that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region?

The data indicates there is notable sentiment of agreement that the LNRS clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region, with 74.0% of respondents selecting 'strongly agree' or 'agree' where prompted. Only 9.5% selected 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. This consensus suggests that the strategy was clear and aligned with expectations.

There were 350 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation survey, with 8 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 350 responses.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
93 (26.6%)	**166** (47.4%)	**58** (16.6%)	**24** (6.9%)	**9** (2.6%)	**8**

Sentiment summary

There were 215 responses to the free text element of this question. Free text information provided also indicated a broadly supportive view of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), with many respondents praising its ambition, clarity of vision, and focus on nature recovery. Positive feedback highlighted approval of the strategy's aims and its recognition of local environmental priorities, and numerous comments suggested additional sites, species, or actions showing strong community engagement and a desire to contribute.

At the same time, a substantial number of responses reflected concerns over delivery, particularly around funding and resourcing, implementation confidence, and accountability and enforcement mechanisms. Respondents frequently questioned whether sufficient resources, monitoring, and political will exist to ensure actions are carried out. Other recurring themes included development pressures and the tension between growth and conservation, mapping accuracy, and frustration at past planning decisions. While there appears to be clear public appetite for action, the sentiment indicates that the strategy should look to address concerns about delivery and integration with wider planning policies if it is to gain full confidence and support.

Thematic analysis

The responses highlight a wide spectrum of views with several recurring themes identified. Key themes summary detailed below.

Please see the accompanying spreadsheet which tags responses to this section by theme. Respondents make a number of recommendations for inclusion, references to location for consideration in mapping as well as wider comments.

- **Recommendations for inclusion**: a number of respondents highlighted opportunities and additions to the strategy (44 respondents). Many of these are general comments such as planning permissions for development proposals to require improvement to the environment and calls for closer linkage with Natural Flood Management, while others identified specific sites or actions, for example: *'We have produced a draft biodiversity audit… parish-wide studies to be referenced'*. The feedback demonstrates strong local knowledge and public interest in making the LNRS more comprehensive and detailed.

- **Strategy presentation**: there is criticism of the length and complexity of the document (16 respondents). Many found it inaccessible, repetitive or hard to navigate. Some noted this may impact public engagement and limit understanding, with calls for summaries: '*A 138-page document is not a clear strategy', 'The vision seems clear and compelling but the wording is repetitive and overlong*'. Alongside criticism, a smaller set of respondents praised the presentation of the strategy describing it as comprehensive, detailed, and well thought out: '*The report is well written and easy to understand'*.

- **Funding / resourcing capacity, costs, delivery**: this was a recurring theme. Respondents repeatedly questioned how the LNRS would be delivered without secure resources, staffing, or expertise. Many feared the strategy would remain aspirational unless matched with realistic, long-term funding commitments: '*It gives no indication as to how to fund any actions needed', 'The suggestions for improvement make sense. However there is nothing on how the funding will be obtained to achieve the aims'*.

- **Implementation confidence**: confidence in delivery is low in many responses. Criticism focused on the absence of clear timelines, measurable targets, and responsibilities, which made commitments feel vague. Some respondents noted that without more concrete delivery measures, the strategy's ambition would not be achieved: '*… the 'how' and specific KPIs, timeframes, how to measure outcomes, how the plan will adapt all seems very vague*'. Respondents made comment on a lack of detail around monitoring with questions about how the strategy, and BNG, would be measured and maintained. Stronger compliance mechanisms were requested. Some respondents said the LNRS lacked detail on specific actions with calls for more detail, clearer steps and commitments for delivery.

- **Accountability / enforcement (monitoring, compliance, oversight)**: several responses questioned whether the LNRS would be backed by effective oversight. Comments highlighted concerns that councils, developers etc would not be held to account, and that without enforcement the strategy would remain aspirational. Emphasis is placed on the importance of compliance and monitoring to ensure delivery: '*There needs to be more emphasis on*

holding the highways agency to account', 'Lots of good ambitions but not clear on scale of enforcement or who ensures targets are met', 'The strategy documents are well-presented and logical, but there is little sense of who is responsible for monitoring compliance'.

- **Development concerns**: respondents commented on development pressures undermining nature recovery. Housing growth, infrastructure schemes, and urbanisation were cited for threatening habitats, water supply, and open space: '*There is also little on how the development agenda for the region can be accommodated without affecting the success of the nature recovery strategy'*. The tone was sometimes critical of councils for prioritising development over environmental protection: '*How about Fenland District Council stop building on the limited green spaces*'. Solar farms were highlighted as a concern due to biodiversity and land use impacts. While some saw potential if designed carefully, others viewed them as damaging: '*Large solar farms threaten biodiversity and farmland', 'If well designed, solar parks could support nature recovery'.*

- **Agriculture, land use, pressures**: respondents made comment on the balance between farming, food production, and environmental recovery. Some called for more support for farmers to adopt nature-friendly practices, while others noted impact on food production: '*... strategy needs to be mindful of the importance of the area for food production. Biodiversity enhancement needs to be targeted at areas not growing food*'.

- **Text accuracy**: some respondents highlighted perceived text inaccuracies, unclear text, repetitive / inconsistent wording in the strategy. In some cases, submissions suggest revisions to simplify or strengthen the text, however these references are often relatively general: '*However, some of the details are not clear. Mostly this can be addressed by a further robust edit. Little niggles are that some of the Actions are not clear. Sometimes it is hard to be sure what Actions are mapped and what are not. In a couple of places the structure breaks down*'.

- **Infrastructure conflicts**: a number of respondents highlighted conflicts between infrastructure (rail, roads, energy projects) and biodiversity. They saw infrastructure growth as undermining nature recovery goals and creating contradictions in policy. Particular projects are frequently referenced including East West Rail.

- **Policy integration / joined-up approaches**: several responses call for clearer alignment between the LNRS and planning frameworks. Concerns are expressed that the strategy would not be embedded into local plans or decision-making, limiting its impact.

- **Frustrations/reservations**: several respondents expressed frustration at councils and decision-makers, questioning authorities' willingness to act consistently, citing past planning decisions which undermined environmental protection.

- **Public engagement**: a number of respondents highlighted the importance of schools and community groups and wanted more emphasis on education and community involvement noting this as essential to ensuring long-term success: '*Awareness and education need more focus' and 'Local communities must be more involved'.* Local community empowerment is also a reoccurring theme with a small number of respondents stressing the importance

of bottom-up recovery. They wanted local groups and communities to have a stronger role in shaping and delivering the LNRS: '*Communities should be empowered to lead recovery', 'Local voices need more influence'*.

- **Climate / pollution**: climate change, sewage and air quality were mentioned by respondents linking nature recovery to wider environmental issues such as climate change and pollution. Sewage in rivers and poor air quality were raised, and calls were made for these threats to be more explicitly addressed in the strategy: '*Sewage in rivers is a major concern', 'Air pollution must be tackled alongside biodiversity loss'*.

- **Habitats**: some feedback suggested changes to habitat priorities and actions while others emphasised strengthening existing priorities. The feedback was relatively general: '*Some habitats feel underrepresented', 'Actions should be stronger for wetlands*'. Respondents emphasised rivers and water systems as central to biodiversity recovery. Chalk streams, pollution, and flooding were highlighted as key concerns needing greater focus: '*The LNRS must give stronger attention to chalk streams', 'Flooding and river pollution are being overlooked'*. Please refer to main habitats section.

- **Species**: a number of respondents wanted additional species included in the strategy and others suggested greater focus on particular groups or protection measures. Again the comments are quite general: '*Important species are missing from the list', ' Species priorities should better reflect local needs'*. Please refer to main species section.

- **Location references**: a notable number of responses (50 respondents) include reference to locations for consideration, but the detail varies in this regard: '*No mention of the Bee Orchid colony in Wisbech', '... stronger emphasis should be placed on the A47 corridor, particularly between Wansford, Sutton, and Thorney, which has become a forgotten corner of Peterborough*'. Coton Orchard was a recurring concern (9 respondents), often raised as an example of valued local nature under development pressure. Respondents linked this to wider frustrations about planning decisions: *'Why rip through established nature areas (Coton Orchard)?', 'Coton Orchard should be protected, not developed'*.

- **Mapping accuracy (omissions, corrections, usability)**: respondents raised concerns about maps being incomplete or inaccurate with some stating local areas were missing. Others found the maps difficult to use at a local scale. In addition to mapping accuracy a number of respondents commented on the accessibility of the maps and the usability. Some respondents found the maps confusing or inaccessible: '*I found the interactive map difficult to use', 'Hard to see my own village on the maps'*.

- **Church/churchyard reference**: churchyards were suggested (4 respondents) as overlooked opportunities for biodiversity. Respondents felt these spaces could be valuable for wildlife if better managed: '*Churchyards could be havens for biodiversity', 'These spaces are underused in the strategy'*.

- **Rewilding**: a small number of respondents raised tensions between rewilding and traditional conservation. Views differed on which should take priority: '*Rewilding should not replace traditional land management', 'Nature needs more ambitious rewilding'*.

- **Human disturbance**: a limited number of respondents commented on the potential conflict between human access and ecological needs noting disturbance from recreation in sensitive habitats: '*Too much human access risks damaging habitats', 'We must balance access with protection*'.

- **Landowner consent**: some respondents flagged that they have not been consulted regarding their land and others emphasised the importance landowner consent is seen as vital to co-operation: '*Areas of land have been included without consultation with the owners', '…as an un-consulted landowner, with land included in the strategy in a way that means I cannot actually use my own land – I cannot allow my land to be included in your plan*'. A number of respondents highlighted the importance of public engagement and particular engagement with farmers and landowners: *'It's essential that communication with the farming community is improved and made more transparent…'*.

- **Strategy compilation and future implications**: A couple of respondents reflected on how the LNRS had been compiled and its future role. This appeared less about content and more about process and long-term implications of the strategy: '*The strategy's compilation raises questions about how it will evolve', ' I am concerned that it could lead to actions being 'assumed' or 'permitted' by other organisations or they will use outcomes from this to justify potential future actions by them*'.

Please note that the respondent numbers referenced above relate to the accompanying spreadsheet, which tags responses to this section by key themes. The tags highlight the main issues that respondents raise but do not necessarily capture all feedback provided and should be read alongside feedback from other sections for a fuller picture of theme numbers.

Habitats

Habitat priorities

Review of sentiment

Do you agree or disagree with the priorities for the habitats below?

Each habitat type received a different number of responses to this question; these numbers are detailed in each row heading below. All percentages given are calculated out of the number of responses stated in each case.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
Woodlands *(209 votes)*	**116** (55.5%)	**69** (33.0%)	**18** (8.6%)	**4** (1.9%)	**2** (1.0%)	149
Grasslands *(210 votes)*	**104** (49.5%)	**78** (37.1%)	**20** (9.5%)	**6** (2.9%)	**2** (1.0%)	148
Wetlands *(207 votes)*	**113** (54.6%)	**69** (33.3%)	**17** (8.2%)	**6** (2.9%)	**2** (1.0%)	151
Rivers, streams and drains *(207 votes)*	**125** (60.4%)	**60** (29.0%)	**17** (8.2%)	**3** (1.4%)	**2** (1.0%)	151
Habitat mosaics *(205 votes)*	**102** (49.8%)	**71** (34.6%)	**29** (14.1%)	**1** (0.5%)	**2** (1.0%)	153
Urban landscapes *(206 votes)*	**82** (39.8%)	**78** (37.9%)	**38** (18.4%)	**5** (2.4%)	**3** (1.5%)	152
Farmed landscapes *(204 votes)*	**96** (47.1%)	**70** (34.3%)	**31** (15.2%)	**6** (2.9%)	**1** (0.5%)	154

Emerging trends per habitat

Across all habitat types, the majority of respondents expressed agreement with the priorities, though the level of support varied by habitat. The strongest support was for rivers, streams and drains, where 89.4% strongly agreed or agreed. Woodlands and wetlands also received very high support, with 88.5% and 87.9% (respectively) strongly agreeing or agreeing. Grasslands and farmed landscapes showed slightly lower, though still substantial, levels of agreement (86.6% and 81.4%), while habitat mosaics attracted more mixed views, with 14.1% neutral responses. Urban landscapes had the lowest proportion of agreement (77.7%).

The numbers of respondents that strongly disagreed or disagreed with the habitat priorities range between 3 and 8 respondents (1.5% for habitat mosaics and 3.9% for grassland, wetlands and urban landscapes).

Key themes identified

A theme throughout the responses in this section (below), while supportive of the listed priority habitats, is the call for a more 'holistic' and joined-up approach; as every area contributes, or can contribute, to nature, the LNRS should not take a fragmented 'patchwork' approach but should focus on a connected network, giving a bigger picture of a thriving, connected countryside. Links between habitat priorities and landscape-scale management changes needed to support them could be better emphasised.

While indicating a general sentiment of agreement, some comments suggested that information is 'general and vague', questioning how activity will be rolled out and monitored, who will be contactable for concerns to be shared, how progress and success stories would be shared and celebrated.

Some comments suggest a lack of clarity over who is responsible or expected to undertake the actions listed, and there is some understanding that success will be reliant not only on funding but also planning and governance – ensuring that LNRS influence is embedded across local planning and other systems will help plans be realised.

Multiple comments add that, while there is an understood need to improve all types of habitats, this should not be 'at the expense of landowners'.

Potential habitat priorities for inclusion

93 free text comments were provided in response to this question (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar) as well as one comment stating 'see answer below' and one 'see attached letter'.

Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to habitat priorities for inclusion on the LNRS, alongside rationale for inclusion, where given.

If there are any priorities you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:

Habitat priority	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Corridors and verges: Road and rail infrastructure (including verges, embankments, cuttings, yards)	Land is often undisturbed and has high biodiversity potential; chalk grassland verges are globally rare but under-managed. New infrastructure (eg, East–West Rail) could serve as wildlife corridors if managed for biodiversity
Corridors and verges: Protected Road Verges (PRVs)	Over 100 PRVs already protect rare chalk grassland but are poorly managed (eg, in Duxford); need stronger recognition and proper monitoring
Corridors (general)	Bigger, better-connected landscapes are needed for resilience and species movement
Urban & community landscapes (general)	Urban/brownfield areas have high ecological potential but are often overlooked
Urban & community landscapes: Local green/open spaces (parks, allotments, churchyards, burial grounds, community gardens/orchards)	Offer opportunities to connect more people with nature especially when local stewards (clergy, teachers, volunteers) are empowered to educate and promote community engagement. Access to nature also promotes personal wellbeing but should be balanced with undisturbed space for nature to thrive. Example of Peterborough Embankment given
Urban & community landscapes: Gardens	Common habitats but with high potential for biodiversity (when wildlife-friendly gardens are encouraged, such as reduced use of artificial grass, fences and paving)
Farmland (general)	Intensive farming practices reduce biodiversity and soil health; regenerative practices support sustainable food systems and nature recovery; identify poor quality farmland and target activity
Farmland (droves)	Suggested for inclusion as fenland, margin vegetation provides source of seed heads for birds; good wildlife corridors
Hedgerows (general)	Warrant stronger emphasis in their own right (separate from farmed landscapes) as they provide critical wildlife corridors, support biodiversity, improve air and water quality, store carbon and help manage flood risk, as well as providing shelter and food source for many species. Many are degraded and need restoration
Field 'blocks'	Larger areas within fields can support more species than narrow margins alone
Grasslands & meadows: Chalk grassland/meadow	Globally rare habitat, under pressure but relatively simple to manage for biodiversity. Meadows are 'equally good for carbon capture as planting trees'

Habitat priority	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Grasslands & meadows: Floodplain meadows	Important habitat often 'lost' between wetland and grassland categories in policy/mapping (eg, North Northants vs Cambs)
Grasslands & meadows: Acid grasslands	Rare locally, require protection and improvement (eg, South Cambs)
Grasslands & meadows: Other neutral grassland	Commonly forming in habitat banks, but successional; valuable and under-recognised compared to lowland meadow
Wetlands, rivers & water: Rivers, streams, drains	Biodiversity depends on whole river corridors, not isolated elements; water level and floodplain links are critical
Wetlands, rivers & water: Chalk streams (eg, Cambridge)	Limited in the UK, threatened by abstraction and pollution; Cambridgeshire holds many and they should be protected
Wetlands, rivers & water: Clay streams	This habitat supports species like water voles, otters, and kingfishers; focus needed for recovery
Wetlands, rivers & water: Small ponds (schools, community, gardens)	Deserves greater consideration, this habitat supports amphibians, reptiles, insects and plants and can provide easy, widespread opportunities for habitat creation
Wetlands, rivers & water: Other wetlands (small/ornamental lakes, brick pits, ponds, ditches [inc. IDB, ML])	Described as underused for biodiversity and could provide key corridor links
Wetlands, rivers & water: Small-scale areas (garden / school ponds)	Cambridgeshire described as having only small-scale areas to dedicate to nature and these can be prioritised for positive impact (eg, creating a pond in every school ground)
Peat soil (lowland deep peat)	Extremely rare in UK and current farming practices risk permanent/irreversible loss
Brownfield land (eg, urban fringes, quarries, airbases, railway corridors)	Described as underutilised but holding notable biodiversity potential, especially for insects; protecting and enhancing these areas would provide 'stepping stones' for biodiversity
Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH)	Supports, and provides unique niches for, specialised species (including those shortlisted in the LNRS); valuable in BNG context but at risk of succession
Scrub (thorny, wood meadow, rewilded)	An important rich habitat, supporting birds (such as Turtle dove), invertebrates and even other habitat types, but undervalued and often cleared. Should be included explicitly rather than as a minor component

Habitat priority	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Woodland & trees: Woodland (general, including small patches)	UK has very low cover; small, overlooked patches and belts provide vital connectivity and habitat. Areas referenced at TL 648728 and 633723.
Woodland & trees: Ancient and veteran trees	Important habitats often lost (eg, felled in villages/towns due to safety concerns); should be protected (including one call to make cutting them down 'illegal'); also presents border/ connectivity opportunities with neighbouring LNRS areas (eg, Huntingdonshire and Central Beds)
SSSI areas	Mentioned generally with no specific rationale
Specific location/site: Milton & surrounds	Numerous omissions in maps (paddocks, ditches, landfill, corridors, cemetery meadow, woodland patches, etc)
Specific location/site: Orton Wistow / Lynch Wood / Lynch Farm / Borthwick Park and Five Arches cul de sacs	Important woodlands and tree belts missing; these areas support diverse wildlife as a 'mosaic habitat'
Specific location/site: Between the cul de sacs of Whitewater and the Rookery	Mature natural woodland areas here not identified for protection on the maps
Specific location/site: John Clare Countryside	Landscape-scale regeneration area with existing community projects; can support biodiversity and local economy
Specific location/site: Mepal / Sutton	A rare rewilded thorny scrub site, an 'irreplaceable' refuge for nature, including Turtle doves (and other birds) nesting/ breeding there, wildflower species (including orchids), insects, and large numbers of threatened and red-listed bird species
Specific location/site: Wisbech	Mentioned in reference to a Bee Orchid colony, no further rationale given
Specific location/site: St Neots	Mentioned in reference to: **Himalayan balsam:** an invasive species, flagged as a major issue locally, poorly managed clearance harms insect population **Norfolk Hawker dragonfly:** expanding in local habitats but not included in lists; poor recording methods risk under-recognition
Specific location/site: Former quarry/mineral extraction sites along the A47 corridor	Represent large and strategically located land parcels yet have degraded and are underused as 'functioning ecological networks' that support habitats. Multiple actions suggested
Specific location/site: Isleham Washes	Valuable for breeding and wintering birds, as well as plant species (such as Tubular water dropwort) and forms an important area of connectivity of fenland/river Lark

Habitat priority	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Specific location/site: Gamlingay (meadows, community orchards, churchyards, farm field headlands)	Area being managed for biodiversity with a range of actions also impacting community wellbeing
Gamlingay (Millbridge Brook)	Area's health being monitored by Riverfly Partnership, more riparian management suggested
Specific location/site: Humphries Way Play Area	Recognised as connected open space (along with Froment Way school playing field and Humphries Way), suggested this is mid-identified
Specific location/site: Land west of Fen Drove, off Fen Road, Milton	Suggested as having been left out of the designation
Specific location/site: 'White' land NE, E and S of North Lodge Park	Areas to be included for improvement as grassland, including fields (to the E and S) designated (by Heritage England) as not able to be built on due to their archaeological interest
Specific location/site: Bankers Ditch running parallel, west of the River Cam, from a point east of the Country Park, northwards to a point east of the Footgolf Centre	Important historically for drainage and for nature
Specific location/site: Spinneys – running north from Fen Road on Fen Drove, Milton	Protected area TPO 0016 (1983)
Specific location/site: Grassland bund alongside the A10	Designated as grassland but should be woodland due to self-set trees growing since 1970s
Specific location/site: Grassland strip south of the road from Tesco roundabout, Milton to the A14 roundabout	Designated as grassland but contains Poplar trees (though old and declining)
Specific location/site: Green corridors (and paths) running through the Cambridge Science Park including around the loop road	Not included but probably should be (referenced North East Cambridge Area Action Plan)
Specific location/site: Narrow triangle of land north of Cambridge North Station	Designated for woodland improvement but designated for housing and employment development (Hartree)
Specific location/site: Grassland at the Landfill site south of Butt Lane	Plan for restoration, following closure of the site, 2026

Habitat priority	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Specific location/site: Milton Cemetery, west of Landbeach Road	Milton PC has a management plan for wildflower meadow and biodiversity enhancements. Land to be used for burials in due course
Specific location/site: Wet woodland area at Tomkins Mead (north west corner of Milton Country Park, owned by Milton Parish Council)	Needs improvement (it is different from the woodland in the Country Park proper)
Specific location/site: A triangular field west of the A10, south of the P&R access	Designated Wo6A but has been approved as an EV charging station

As well as the above suggestions for habitat priorities, a number of comments were included in response to this question that were more widely related to actions rather than specific habitats for inclusion. Common themes in these comments included:

- **Planning, development and governance:**
  - Implement more controls (*strategic inclusion of BNG habitat protection and maintenance in planning to minimise impacts of development activities; strict green/blue infrastructure requirements*)
  - Align LNRS actions and biodiversity-positive practices into local planning and council functions including for new developments and regeneration projects; local communities to have more say on large projects impacting them (eg, HS2, EW Rail)
  - Adopt a landscape-scale and connectivity approach in planning
  - Avoid developing on existing natural landscapes
  - John Clare countryside mentioned as an excellent approach, compared with Homes England site proposals north of Castor

- **Development in domestic areas/gardens:**
  - Reduce/discourage use of artificial grass
  - Incorporate elements such as hedgehog runs and rainwater tanks in housing plans
  - Reduce levels of building on green spaces and focus on renovating existing buildings

- **Wetlands, rivers and water:**
  - Introduction of beavers proven as a successful for restoring natural river processes and in turn boosting biodiversity
  - Licensing for water abstraction and management of water for nature should be prioritised above water need for agricultural purposes (reduce fire risk, such as on peat lands, and enables wetland restoration/recreation)
  - Potential incentivisation for new water storage options for farms/nature reserves
  - Removal of plastic/prevention of plastic entering all habitats but particularly water-linked habitats
  - Develop ‘blue flag’-style recognition for inland waterways

- **Farming:**
  - Reduction in pesticide and fertiliser use, ploughing and intensive farming (including where impacting verges and hedgerows)
  - More ambitious plans for regenerative practices and natural alternatives

- **Trees and hedgerows:**
  - More new trees to be planted
  - Protect ancient and veteran trees
  - Retain trunks of felled trees for habitats in urban areas
  - Restore existing hedgerows

- **Monitoring, engagement and empowerment:**
  - Strengthen monitoring of contractors
  - Improve management of species recording and databases to accurately inform activity and highlight successes
  - Use BNG proactively and not just for basic compliance
  - Engage the public and develop clearer communication channels

- **Quarry and extractive landscapes:**
  - Promote nature-led restoration of former and active quarry sites, ensuring plans exceed minimum obligations
  - Encourage partnerships between operators, local authorities and conservation organisations

Some comments in this section also made some reference to habitats of specific species (*alongside many more general references to animal and plant species in relation to habitats*); these are summarised below:

House martins (artificial nest cups): nesting threatened by climate and mud shortages, but ANCs could support this declining red-listed species

- **Swallowtail:** species is not fen-dependent as assumed, strategy to reintroduce may be costly and unlikely to succeed
- **Norfolk Hawker dragonfly:** expanding in local habitats but not included in lists; poor recording methods risk under-recognition

Potential habitat priorities for removal

Fewer comments were provided in response to this question, with 18 free text responses (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar).

This question produced a few non-constructive responses that were not directly related to the topic (but rather in relation to the LNRS activity as a whole); where relevant these have been discounted from the analysis.

Generally, in this section, respondents did not suggest for habitat priorities to be removed outright – with several emphasising that they are all important and link to one another – but

rather, a call was made to review the specificity, definitions and priority levels (eg, prioritise scarce habitats such as floodplain grassland over expanding ones such as reedbeds and lakes), as well as avoiding a blanket approach wherein certain activity may not be appropriate in all habitat locations, or where promoting one habitat may be detrimental to others.

There was also some question, specifically to farmland priorities, as to how LNRS activity would be delivered, unless buy-in (such as from governmental or national schemes and regional targets) is secured and increased resources are dedicated – and landowners are specifically consulted.

One notable comment in this section discusses the connection between nature and sustainable health and wellbeing, though no specific changes or removals of priorities were referenced. Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to habitat priorities for removal from the LNRS, alongside rationale for removal, where given.

If there are any priorities you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:

Habitat priority	Rationale for removal/comment (if given)
Farmland (general)	Some question over 'the plan for food' on farmland and whether large-scale food production should be more of a focus than the farmed landscape
Scrubland (general)	Described as 'ignored' (eg, by parish councillors) and more important for high-profile species than people know
Wet woodland (general)	Suggestion that addition of wet woodland along all drains is a 'broad brush' action and that many floodplains listed should contain grassland communities
Washlands of the fens	Suggestion to amend and in part delete some wording: Delete 'the most frequent site for breeding Ruff' (respondent suggests Ruff have not bred in Cambs for years) Amend to state: 'The washlands of the fens are home the vast majority of breeding Black-tailed Godwit in Britain and one of the most important sites for breeding waders in lowland England … and the local Bittern population is already nationally important.'
Specific location/site: Histon	Areas shown on maps are missing permanent grassland

As well as the above suggestions for habitat priorities, a number of comments were included in response to this question that were more widely related to actions rather than specific habitats for inclusion. Common themes in these comments included:

- **Road verges**
  - Sow wildflower and grass mixes in these areas to support insects

- **Landowner consultation**
  - Ensure landowners are brought into discussions to ensure goals set are realistic and achievable

- **Farming practices**
  - Farming priorities should change to focus on sustainable food production for humans to prevent farmland remaining as 'sterile, poisonous deserts'

- **Public access considerations**
  - Consider how priority areas might relate to supporting sustainable healthcare, healthy lifestyles, wellbeing and public engagement and how public access to green spaces may be improved for those purposes

Some comments in this section also made some reference to habitats of specific species (*alongside many more general references to animal and plant species in relation to habitats*); these are summarised below:

- **Large copper butterfly**
  - Inclusion described as a 'vanity project' due to how limited locations of food sources will be; suggested change of focus to promoting wildflowers and grass mixes to verges to encourage hundreds of insects species

- **Ruff**
  - Suggested for removing reference to this bird as not has not been breeding/present in the area for a long time

- **Black tailed godwit**
  - Respondent stated that the vast majority of breeding pairs in Britain are based in the washlands of the fens (also an important site for other breeding waders)

- **Bittern**
  - Suggestion that the local population is nationally important

Habitat actions

Review of sentiment

Do you agree or disagree with the actions for each habitat below?

Each habitat type received a different number of responses to this question; these numbers are detailed in each row heading below. All percentages given are calculated out of the number of responses stated in each case.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
Woodlands *(199 votes)*	**98** (49.2%)	**73** (36.7%)	**22** (11.1%)	**4** (2.0%)	**2** (1.0%)	159
Grasslands *(201 votes)*	**90** (44.8%)	**84** (41.8%)	21 (10.4%)	**4** (2.0%)	**2** (1.0%)	157
Wetlands *(198 votes)*	**88** (44.4%)	**80** (40.4%)	**21** (10.6%)	**7** (3.5%)	**2** (1.0%)	160
Rivers, streams and drains *(197 votes)*	**99** (50.3%)	**68** (34.5%)	**24** (12.2%)	**4** (2.0%)	**2** (1.0%)	161
Habitat mosaics *(191 votes)*	**81** (42.4%)	**79** (41.4%)	**29** (15.2%)	**0** (0%)	**2** (1.0%)	167
Urban landscapes *(195 votes)*	**77** (39.5%)	**75** (38.5%)	**39** (20.0%)	**0** (0%)	**4** (2.1%)	163
Farmed landscapes *(194 votes)*	**77** (39.7%)	**80** (41.2%)	**26** (13.4%)	**6** (3.1%)	**5** (2.6%)	164
Site-specific (in priority landscapes) *(188 votes)*	**78** (41.5%)	**70** (37.2%)	**31** (16.5%)	**5** (2.7%)	**4** (2.1%)	170

Emerging trends per habitat

Across all habitat types, the majority of respondents expressed agreement with the proposed habitat actions, though the strength of support varied. Again, the highest levels of agreement were recorded for rivers, streams and drains, where 84.8% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed. Woodlands also attracted high levels of support at 85.9%. Urban landscapes actions, again, recorded the lowest levels of agreement (78.0%).

The numbers of respondents who strongly disagreed or disagreed with the habitat actions remained low overall, ranging from 1.0% (habitat mosaics) up to 5.7% (farmed landscapes). It is noteworthy that neutral responses ranged from 10.4% to 20.0%.

This indicates overall support for the habitat action priorities, but with urban, farmed and site-specific landscapes standing out as more contested areas where a greater proportion of respondents were unconvinced.

Key themes identified

Comments in this section reflected a general sentiment of agreement and acknowledgment of the need to protect existing and vulnerable areas of habitat, and the wildlife within them, but called for a more connected and collaborative approach, suggesting that while the actions appeared to be presented in isolation, they would be more effective working together (spanning across habitats but potentially across LNRS regions, with buy-in from multiple authorities). The actions are well chosen, but if reframed this way, may be 'greater than the sum of their parts' – and that this would also help to safeguard against potential conflicting/competing habitat uses. Similarly, landowners should be consulted where actions apply to their land and involved in action planning to ensure that goals are both mutual and achievable.

While respondents largely agreed with the actions presented, some questioned both the ambition of the actions and the practicalities of rolling them out (considering policy, timeframes, responsibilities, funding...). Comments called for clearer, less 'vague' definitions and explanation of the actions presented, with multiple respondents suggesting that targets should be reframed as 'SMART', with more specific prioritisation (wherein more vulnerable and rare habitat actions are placed ahead of more general enhancement activity).

Multiple respondents made comments calling for biodiversity and sustainability of landscape elements to factor more prominently in development planning and policy – such as the prevention of new sites being approved green belt field – suggesting that not only are strong requirements and principles needed in infrastructure and buildings, LNRS or biodiversity actions need to be stricter, enforceable and representative of more than just the bare minimum or implemented on a voluntary basis.

Potential habitat actions for inclusion

81 free text comments were provided in response to this question (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar) as well as comments stating 'see answer above', 'see attached letter' and similar.

Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to habitat actions for inclusion on the LNRS, alongside rationale for inclusion, where given.

If there are any actions you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:

Habitat action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Woodland & scrub: Woodland creation & management (*plant more trees; expand, restore, protect and create wood pasture and parkland; establish buffers around fragmented woodland; consider coppicing incentives; ensure understory and nectar sources such as Dog violet are included – though not at the expense of larval feed plants*)	Diverse woodland structure supports resilience; parkland valuable mosaic habitat; buffers help fragmented patches; coppicing benefits light-loving species; understory/nectar sources important due to impacts of climate change
Woodland & scrub: Deer management (*define actions further, prioritise reduction of habitat damage, eg, from Muntjac*)	Further explanation required with regards to deer management actions. Damage from deer (including Muntjac) jeopardises woodland recovery. Repeatedly raised as a key issue
Woodland & scrub: Scrub habitat creation & management (*create and maintain scrub habitats within priority areas*)	Scrub is underappreciated but excellent for supporting and enhancing biodiversity
Trees: More trees protected by TPO; records kept of felled trees; more trees planted	
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Wetland and pond creation/restoration (*more ponds in urban/recreation areas; ensure lined ponds in uplands to prevent drying*)	Ponds/wetlands support freshwater species, birds, bats, pollinators – creation should feature more
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Floodplain meadow restoration (*large-scale wetland creation in fens; restore, enhance, or create floodplain meadows*)	Provide flood risk reduction and resilience in water-stressed areas; provides flood/carbon storage, nutrient removal and silt interception
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Suggested focus on natural flood management (*address leaky dams and attenuation ponds, restoring meanders, riparian cooling, drawing out ditch/drain edges, slowing water flows, restoring historic watercourses*)	
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Reword/clarify actions (*eg, RD1*)	Multiple suggestions that RD1A wording is unclear, could be more flexible (eg, to allow for wider buffers). Suggestion that wording should explicitly cover in-channel habitats and opportunities for nature
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Seasonal pools management (*map, survey, and provide management advice for ephemeral farm pools*)	Prevents features vegetating and turning to wet scrub; ensures seasonal pools are maintained

Habitat action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Protect chalk streams (*reduce abstraction; repair aquifer dewatering damage; prevent further development pressures; connect with chalk/ lowland grasslands*)	Chalk streams are precious and fragile, and concentrated in the area but being destroyed by over-abstraction, pollution, and development (eg, Longstanton)
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Control invasive wetland species (*take action on, eg, Crassula helmsii and Himalayan balsam*)	Both are highly invasive and outcompete native vegetation, impacting diversity
Wetlands, rivers & floodplains: Reedbed management support (allow sustainable offtake eg, thatch material)	Supports reedbed longevity; does not seem adequately covered by the term 'paludiculture'
Floodplains: Shift more floodplains to semi-natural habitats (*species-rich floodplain meadow, floodplain mosaic, wet woodland*)	Arable is vulnerable to flooding and can contribute to water quality problems
Farmland: Support farmland bird species (*adopt proven measures for, eg, Corn bunting, Turtle dove, Yellow wagtail...*)	Red-listed species need targeted action; comparatively common breeding birds locally but still in decline and should feature on farmland priorities for the area
Farmland: Promote and incentivise more nature-friendly farming (*reduce pesticide and chemical use; better control of slurry leakage; wider margins and hedges; companion cropping; support local markets; campaign Central Government Sustainable Farming Incentive*)	Chemicals harm nature and water quality; promotes longer-term sustainable solutions for food production and nature enhancement/biodiversity as part of arable connectivity; old techniques may not deliver in all areas of interest and more modern solutions can be more appropriate
Farmland: Review emphasis on field margins (*increase ambition for habitat creation beyond 6m margins and hedgerows in these landscapes*)	Margins useful but insufficient alone, provide opportunities for better connectivity of priority habitats
Hedgerows: Restore hedgerows; better management (*eg, around Witchford*)	Hedgerows provide the best and often only wildlife corridors across our East Cambs landscape, hedgerow management for wildlife is a key action
Grasslands & scrubland: Create species-rich neutral grassland (*expand creation and management across landscapes*)	Should be listed as a separate priority
Grasslands & scrubland: Protect and improve chalk grassland remnants (*include Protected Road Verges and verge habitats*)	Over 100 protected road verges created by county councils not appearing on asset maps; managed poorly and described as 'the last vestiges of rare chalkland grassland in many parishes and must be protected'

Habitat action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Grass: Examine mowing policies (*such as for road verges and local government areas; eg, Cottenham; reduction of short-grass summer moving in public spaces*)	Less mowing can help species to recover; in Cottenham Small copper butterflies are threatened by verge mowing (when larvae feeding)
Peatlands (general): Peat protection (*preserve remaining deep lowland peat*)	
Mosaics: M1C could be changed to "Mapped actions"	Locations of the CWS are known (and shown as part of the LNRS mapping albeit at small scale)
Urban landscapes: Encourage wildlife friendly gardens (*surveys of individuals land use; campaigns or financial incentives to encourage natural gardens over tarmac/concrete options*)	'Traditional' gardens are extremely valuable for wildlife; a focus here could empower people to make a difference
Urban landscapes: Amend U3A (*to recognise the intent of U3 is to increase wildlife connectivity across transport corridors*)	As drafted, this implies the focus is along the transport corridor and is silent on the corridor being a barrier to connectivity. Removing / avoiding unnecessary wildlife-impermeable fencing should be included in the action
Urban & community spaces: Reduce urban disturbance (*stricter lighting rules; ban dogs in reserves; littering fines*)	Lighting impacts bats/moths; dogs disturb wildlife; litter harms habitats
Specific location/site: Coton Orchard (*protect from development; maintain as existing habitat*)	Labelled for enhancement but is already a biodiverse mosaic (with many species mentioned); 'the first priority must be to not destroy existing habitat'
Specific location/site: Wilson's Track, Longstanton (*protect from interference and mass development – also ref Coton Orchard*)	Location contains ancient trackway with trees, grassland, wildlife habitats and chalk streams; some damage has already occurred but further damage to be prevented
Specific location/site: Gog Magog Hills habitats (*focus on southern slopes in Stapleford and down to river; connect SSSI with Dernford Fen, river valley and flood meadows*)	South-facing slopes have greater potential (grassland, butterflies); providing corridors help migration and protect from transport development pressures
Specific location/site: Review sites affected by EWR development (*eg, Haslingfield Parish*)	Considered a matter of urgency ('once they are lost, they will be lost forever'), concern for Barbastelle bat colony whose foraging grounds will be disrupted
Specific location/site: Great Ouse Valley (*create connected habitats with grassland/woodland buffers and connected corridors through river valley*)	Potential to reduce flooding and pollution and improve habitat diversity

Habitat action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Specific location/site: John Clare countryside (*presents a potential nature-based solution to improving resilience of urban areas*)	Area plays an important role in absorbing and slowing surface water runoff between Wittering and Castor, prevents significant threats to urban and industrial areas of Peterborough
Specific location/site: Protect St Neots riverside (*Henbrook & Pocket Park*)	Records of rare dragonfly *Aeshna isosceles*
Specific location/site: Wilbraham Fen (*adjust habitat targets to flexible*)	Percentages may need to be adjusted depending on site and in consultation with landowners
Specific location/site: Orton Wistow habitats (*Lynch Farm, Lynch Wood Fields, banks of River Nene, tree belts, Borthwick Park/Five Arches*) to be protected	Threatened by development and change of land use (reducing grazing/foraging areas) but currently a rich habitat for multiple species
Make M1C a mapped action	
Change M1B to a Create Action	
Reword U3A to 'support high quality wildlife corridors and pollinator routes along and across...'	
Amend We1A – add 'as appropriate to support their interest features'	Some of these may not be appropriate in some sites

As well as the above suggestions for habitat actions, a number of comments were included in response to this question that were not specifically related to certain habitat types but wider actions for inclusion. Common themes in these comments included:

- **Public engagement:**
  - More and better mapping within the Parishes by local volunteers
  - Engage citizen science; making actions as inclusive and dynamic as possible
- **Creation of 'bee corridors'**
  - Linked-up habitats allowing free and safe movement for wildlife
- **Landowner consultation**
  - Useful to include description of how to consult with larger landowners (Oxford and Cambridge colleges, Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Greensand Trust...)
  - Identification and contacting of all landowners prior to public consultation

Some comments in this section also made some reference to habitats of specific species (*alongside many more general references to animal and plant species in relation to habitats*); these are summarised below:

- **Barbastelle bats:** described as very rare and referenced in relation to woodland habitats under threat (including in areas such as Coton Orchard and Haslingfield Parish) where they

are also disturbed by urban elements such as bright lights, noise and vibration

- **Stone curlew:** described as breeding locally and should be noted alongside the importance of the area's recovery for this purpose
- **House martins:** endangered / red-listed but with significant population in Cambridgeshire and would benefit from artificial nest cups (ANCs) to counter lack of habitat
- **Muntjac deer:** mentioned in reference to the damage caused by this species in woodland areas, with one comment for the need to 'get rid of them'
- **Black poplar:** mentioned as having been planted in partnership with conservationists in Coton Orchard area
- **Dog violet, Goat/Grey willow, Ivy:** mentioned as having been omitted from woodland actions but are important pollen/nectar sources, including late in the year
- **Corn bunting, Turtle dove, Yellowhammer, Yellow wagtail, Crane:** mentioned in reference to being red-listed and for inclusion in farmland and wetland actions and measures
- **Badgers, Hedgehogs, Foxes, Bats, Deer, Woodpeckers, Starlings, Owls and birds of prey, butterflies, insects (general):** mentioned in reference to Lynch Farm and Lynch Wood Fields in Orton Wistow which is an important habitat for these species
- **Dormice, water voles:** linked to concepts of functional connectivity (dispersal distances, corridors, pollinator stepping stones)
- **Non-indigenous species:** such as Walnut or Sycamore trees, non-native daffodils, comments indicating the need for a strategy for these species being introduced by 'well-meaning but ignorant people'; similar mentions of Crassula helmsii and Himalayan balsam

Potential habitat actions for removal

Fewer comments were provided in response to this question, compared with the previous one, with 22 free text responses (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar).

While some constructive suggestions were made, as detailed below, there were multiple comments suggesting that actions did not specifically need to be removed, but as with previous similar questions, many comments refer to changes, amendments, clarifications or reprioritisation required to actions, or criticism of the actions themselves, rather than suggestions for actions or elements of actions that should be specifically removed.

Two comments stated that while there was no need for actions to be removed, the respondents' land should be removed from the strategy as 'you will never achieve your goals on the site'. Comments also called for 'more evidence', where suggested actions have been unsuccessful in the past and new techniques would be required – suggesting that farmers may be a useful resource for developing new solutions.

Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to actions for removal

from the LNRS priority species list, alongside rationale for removal, where given. Suggested modifications are also incorporated into this list.

If there are any actions you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:

Habitat action	Rationale for removal (if given)
F1C Modify to target areas where it would most benefit	Trying to cover 'all farmland' would spread resources too thinly
F1D Remove reference to reduced pesticide use in this action	Pesticide use is already externally regulated by the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) and the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA)
F2 / F2A Modify to remove repeated text	
RD2A Relabel as RD1B	
RD5B Modify wording to: 'establish uncultivated riparian buffer zones in accordance with existing active management buffer zones established by the relevant competent authority. Plant or promote low growing…'	IDB mandates described as already effective and reasonable in this regard, and so wording should reflect this
U2D / U2E Combine these actions	Described as almost identical
We6A Modify wording to: remove 'reedbeds and wet grassland' and replace with 'wetland habitat mosaics'	
We7B Modify wording to correct 'for English' and remove text duplicated in We6C	
We7C Remove reference to reduced pesticide use in this action	Pesticide use is already externally regulated by the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) and the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA)
Wo4 / Wo4A Remove emphasis on managing deer	It was argued that deer are a vital part of nature and not an 'enemy' of it; suggestion that woodland regeneration should proceed without wholesale killing of deer
Wo6A Modify wording	Supporting action has same text as create action

Habitat action	Rationale for removal (if given)
Specific location/site: Proposed actions on Gog Magog Hills (suggested amendment to focus actions on the southern side, even by removing actions on north side if needed)	References proposed bus way on green belt land and suggested requirement for developers to increase biodiversity
Specific location/site: Ouse Washes: certain sections of action wording, related to reducing the volume of flood flows and increasing water storage, should be removed	'In flooding, the Ouse washes are fulfilling the function for which they were designed and built, to protect agricultural and urban areas from flooding. This section should be removed as the function of the Ouse washes is to flood, and in doing so to protect other areas'
50m buffer strips / buffer zones along rivers, streams, and main drains	Concern over negative impact this action would have on food production; considered only reasonable where water quality issues warrant it, not as a blanket measure, with some examples given of when this may not be effective. Also described as not in alignment with BNG standards.
Reassess swallowtail translocation (referenced in previous sections)	Notes in previous sections referenced, which stated species is not fen-dependent as assumed, strategy to reintroduce may be costly and unlikely to succeed
Critique of actions re: pond creation alongside main drains/rivers in the fens	Concern expressed that this would impact or remove good farmland and no management plans indicated for ponds. Species that flourish in river/ditch habitats cannot thrive in static ponds

Species

Species priorities

Review of sentiment

Do you agree or disagree with the species included in the priority species list?

There were 202 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation survey, with 156 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 202 responses.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
78 (38.6%)	**88** (43.6%)	**28** (13.9%)	**6** (3.0%)	**2** (1.0%)

There appears to be strong support of priority species list with over 82.2% of respondents completing the section strongly agreeing or agreeing. This section indicated that there is support for species conservation, coupled with calls for more practical, habitat-based, and locally relevant action. The responses reflect a mix of constructive input, aspiration, and some frustration in places.

Key themes identified

While multiple comments suggesting that no changes need be made to the species list, a range of suggestions was provided by respondents, including additions, removals and changes of prioritisation level – but with some comments that 'all species are equally important' and that it is difficult to prioritise some over others.

Some feedback highlights gaps such as overlooked groups (fungi, lichens, certain invertebrates, plants considered weeds) and respondents suggested broadening the focus beyond a narrow list of rare species, to include more common, widespread or recognisable species (where these are indicator species or likely to engage the public).

Multiple comments suggested that a focus on habitat creation and land/habitat management would be more effective than on a species-centric approach with calls for better integration of habitats. Concern over land usage – including increasing pressures of development – was highlighted as well as recognition of the importance of community participation and action from landowners.

Potential species for inclusion

69 free text comments were provided in response to this question (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar). Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to species for inclusion on the LNRS priority species list, alongside rationale for inclusion, where given.

If there are any species you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Birds	Common tern	Amber listed; breeding successfully at Dernford Reservoir due to new habitat
	Corn bunting	Red listed; relatively frequent breeder in East Cambs. Present in the Kingsway area
	Cuckoo	Described as having declined following removal of urban hedgerows
	Fieldfare	Should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland)
	Greenfinch	Should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland)
	Grey partridge	Umbrella species; restoring habitat for it benefits wider farmland biodiversity
	House martin	Endangered/red listed; should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland); present in the Kingsway area
	House sparrow	Red listed; indicator species for hedgerows and urban spaces
	Lapwing	Red listed; should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland). Recorded as impacted by Kingsway Solar NSIP
	Linnet	Red listed; present in the Kingsway area
	Mistle thrush	Red listed; should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland)
	Nightingale	Red listed; threatened by development near Castor Hanglands
	Owls (general)	One of multiple types of groups at risk from planned development at Lynch Wood (Peterborough)
Birds	Barn owl	Red listed species identified in the area (eg, Kingsway)
	Long-eared owl, short-eared owl	Nationally scarce

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Birds	Skylark	Red listed species but thrives locally (eg, Castor Hanglands) threatened by development. Also identified in the Kingsway area
	Song thrush	Reported to have disappeared locally following urban hedgerow removal
	Spotted flycatcher	Red listed; should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland); listed as only 15–17 pairs in South Cambs but noted at Hildersham
	Starling	Red listed; should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland)
	Stone curlew	Known to be nesting in Cambridgeshire
	Swift	Numbers could be boosted by nest boxes and community action
	Swallow	Described as in rapid decline due to collapsing insect populations and issues with migration
	Turtle dove	Noted as appropriate for inclusion in the area
	Whitethroat	General suggestion for inclusion
	Woodcock	Red listed; should be included alongside habitat management actions (eg, farmland)
	Yellow wagtail	Red listed; relatively frequent breeder in East Cambs. Present in the Kingsway area
	Yellowhammer	General suggestion for inclusion
Fish	Brown trout	General suggestion for inclusion
	Eel	Described as having historical relevance, especially to Ely
	Fish / aquatic species (general)	More consideration needed for fish and aquatic invertebrates
Insects & Invertebrates	Ants (general)	A potentially overlooked group (mentioned generally alongside moths, wasps, bees and bats)
	Bees (general)	A potentially overlooked group (mentioned generally alongside moths, wasps, ants and bats); one of multiple types of groups at risk from planned development at Lynch Wood (Peterborough)
	Beetles (musk beetle, noble chafer)	General suggestion for inclusion, musk beetle is a locally frequent species

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Insects & Invertebrates	Butterflies (general)	Suggestion that more butterflies should be included; potential indicator group for South Cambs (acid grassland, meadows); plants considered as weeds important for moths and butterflies. Mentioned in reference to Lynch Wood/Castor Flood Meadows
	Black hairstreak	Described as rare and being monitored and conserved by the individual
	Chequered skipper	Reintroduction plan underway near Peterborough
	Green hairstreak, large tortoiseshell, marbled white, small blue, small heath	General suggestion for inclusion
	Green-veined white, small copper, small skipper, small tortoiseshell	Potential indicator group for South Cambs (acid grassland, meadows)
	Grizzled skipper	Can be saved with necessary action; lost in some sites and other known Cambs sites under threat (scrub encroachment, development, lack of management)
	White letter hairstreak	Classed as Vulnerable under GBRDB, Principle Importance within the 2006 NERC Act and is given High Priority by Butterfly Conservation – related to elm conservation
	Caddisfly	Mentioned in reference to Wicken Fen alongside other insects/invertebrates and plants
	Dragonflies (general)	Mentioned in reference to the need for an interconnected strategy
	Glow worm	General suggestion for inclusion
	Insects (general)	Important for supporting birds and bats; mentioned in reference to Kingsway area
	Invertebrates (general)	More could be added but more important to focus on creating good habitats; mentioned in reference to Kingsway area
	Large-mouth valve snail	Mentioned in reference to Wicken Fen alongside other insects/invertebrates and plants
	Moths (general)	Suggestion that more moths should be included; potentially overlooked group (mentioned generally alongside bees, wasps, ants and bats) and impacted by light/air pollution; plants considered as weeds important for moths and butterflies
	Concolorous moth	General suggestion for inclusion

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Insects & Invertebrates	Four spotted moth	General suggestion for inclusion; noted as rare, under threat due to hedge planting and with important populations close to Duxford and Peterborough
	Marsh carpet moth	Mentioned in reference to Wicken Fen alongside other insects/invertebrates and plants
	Small chocolate-tip moth	Flagged as in great decline nationally but unknown why this is the case; only known regionally in Wicken Fen and Norfolk Broads
	Spiders (Zora Armillata)	Mentioned in reference to Wicken Fen alongside other insects/invertebrates and plants
	Wasps (general)	A potentially overlooked group (mentioned generally alongside moths, bees, ants and bats)
Mammals	Badger	Old badger setts threatened (eg, Lynch Wood, Longstanton)
	Bats (general, incl. Brandt's, Whiskered)	Many UK species in decline, critically endangered, vulnerable or near threatened; habitat threatened by development, excessively bright lighting... 12 of 18 UK species recorded locally
	Barbastelle bat (including Western Barbastelle)	Described as very rare and should be added alongside other bat species. Maternity roost in Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC threatened by East-West Rail and other development
	Beaver	Suggested as potential wetland managers in fen areas (see also otters)
	Brown hare / hare	Iconic fenland species, under threat from coursing; declining but East Anglia (eg, Weston Colville) remains a potential stronghold and action should be taken before the need becomes more pressing
	Eurasian otter	Native; threatened by development near River Granta (Linton). Suggested as potential wetland managers in fen areas (see also beavers)
	Hedgehog	Endangered / red list species – efforts needed from home/landowners (eg, hedgehog highways, food/water/shelter). Indicator for recovery of urban gardens
	Stoat	Least concern but threatened by habitat loss and prey decline.

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Mammals	Water vole	Endangered, for inclusion for their own conservation and as a river/stream/ditch indicator species. Wide scope for action (management of water courses) and recent reintroductions taking place in Cambridgeshire/Nene Valley. Humane mink trapping vital as part of catchment's strategy
	Weasel	Suggestion that they warrant a Vulnerable IUCN rating
Plants	Bee orchid	General suggestion for inclusion; noted at North Holding, Hildersham
	Crested cow-wheat	Classed as Very Rare; found within East Cambs
	Dandelions	Mentioned in reference to the need for an interconnected strategy
	Fibrous tussock sedge	Mentioned in reference to Wicken Fen alongside other plants and insects/invertebrates
	Herb paris	General suggestion for inclusion
	Lady orchid	Endangered UK species; not currently found locally but relevant to strategy borders
	Meadow saxifrage	Present in Hildersham churchyard
	Milk parsley	Mentioned in reference to Wicken Fen alongside other plants and insects/invertebrates
	Pasqueflower	General suggestion for inclusion
	Pondweed (Potamogeton compressus, Potamogeton praelongus, Potamogeton alpinus)	Rare pondweed species with population in the area
	Quaking-grass	General suggestion for inclusion
	Spreading bellflower	Rare, and found locally (East Cambs)
	Trees (native trees listed including Chestnut, Hazelnut, Oak, Walnut, Weeping willow)	General suggestion for inclusion
	Black elm	Located on the land belonging to the MRAO (Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory)
	Weeds (general)	Important for moths and butterflies as egg laying areas
	Wild clary	Present in Hildersham

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Reptiles / Amphibians	Amphibians (general)	More should be included as impacted by human development and habitat loss (see common frog, newts)
	Common frog	Impacted by human development and habitat loss
	Common lizard	Rare in most locations and requires specific habitats
	Common toad	Impacted by human development and habitat loss
	Grass snake	General suggestion for inclusion; numbers are declining and being made a protected species (UK BAP)
	Great crested newt	Mentioned as absent from draft list; known locally.
	Newts ('all three species')	Impacted by human development and habitat loss
	Great crested newt	General suggestion for inclusion; habitats under threat
	Slow worm	While classified as common, rare in most locations and require specific habitats / sensitive to habitat degradation
Other organisms	Fungi (general)	Participant unable to see if any fungi species included
	Toadstools	Harder to find than ever before
	Lichens	General suggestion for inclusion

It should be noted that participants have made reference to species they would like to see included or that are relevant to habitats or actions they are commenting on, in response to other questions as well as in this section of the survey. Where suggested species are not included above, you can find a list here:

- Norfolk Hawker dragonfly: expanding locally but not included in lists; poor recording methods risks under-recognition
- Black-tailed godwit: mentioned in relation to the washlands of the fens being home to the majority of breeding pairs, as well as other waders
- Bittern: local population is described as 'nationally important'
- Muntjac deer: mentioned in reference to the damage caused by this species and the need to control populations/'get rid of them'
- Long-eared and Pipistrelle bats: noted at Haslingfield Church
- Bluebells: a respondent calls for more common and widespread species to feature on species list

Potential species for removal

Fewer comments were provided in response to this question, suggesting removals, compared with the previous one, suggesting additions; only 10 free text responses (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar).

Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to species for removal from the LNRS priority species list, alongside rationale for inclusion, where given.

If there are any species you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:

General taxon	Species	Rationale for inclusion
Birds	Corvids (corvus, pica)	Growing populations cause problems for smaller songbirds
	Parakeets	Growing populations cause problems for smaller songbirds
Insects & Invertebrates	Black hairstreak butterfly	Doing well at present and spreading to new sites (Northamptonshire, Cambs, Bedfordshire)
	Large copper butterfly	Reintroduction may be a 'costly mistake'; previous reintroduction attempts have failed. Not possible in the region until water control secured and more plants established. More important to focus on habitat
	Swallowtail butterfly	Strategy flawed; continental species are better able to exploit wide habitats. Previous reintroduction attempts have failed. More important to focus on habitat
Mammals	Badgers	Populations should be managed (apex species with few predators); increased populations have negatively impacted hedgehogs in region
	Deer	Populations should be managed
	Foxes	Populations should be managed (apex species with few predators)
	Hazel dormouse	Targets for this species is reliant on significant restoration/creation of habitat so may not be achievable (though inclusion commendable in principle)

Observations

Overall, the feedback reflects broad endorsement of the species list alongside calls for a more integrated, habitat-led approach. Feedback highlighted the value of adding locally relevant or overlooked groups such as farmland birds, invertebrates, fungi, lichens, and amphibians. Only a small number of comments suggested removals, generally focusing on species perceived as thriving, problematic, or less feasible to restore locally.

Species actions

Review of sentiment

Do you agree or disagree with the actions set out in the priority species list?

There were 198 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation, with 160 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 198 responses.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
67 (33.8%)	**92** (46.5%)	**36** (18.2%)	**2** (1.0%)	**1** (0.5%)

There appears to be strong support of priority species list actions with over 80.3% of respondents completing the section strongly agreeing or agreeing.

Key themes identified

As indicated in the species priority list comments, multiple comments were provided highlighting the need for mitigating the impacts of developments (including for green energy schemes) and for biodiversity to be factored into development/redevelopment and renovation plans, on both small and large scales.

A few species were mentioned specifically in multiple respondents' comments, most prevalently Swifts (in relation to inclusion of swift boxes in development planning), Deer (and the need to control/monitor population and impact of habitats), Stone curlews (expanding scope of conservation areas) and Black tailed godwits (in relation to clarifying habitat definitions).

Multiple calls to include specific actions for mitigating invasive non-native species (INNs) such as Signal crayfish, Himalayan balsam – as well as a general call for habitat management (with clear and enforced actions and monitoring activity) to be prioritised over specific actions on a species level.

Potential species actions for inclusion

40 free text comments were provided in response to this question (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar). Multiple comments state "see above" or similar, in reference to species suggested for addition or removal from the priority species list, and corresponding rationale.

Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to actions for inclusion on the LNRS priority species list, alongside rationale for inclusion, where given.

If there are any actions you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:

Species action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Seed collection and distribution (including established plants)	
Removal of competition (glyphosate holes)	
Adjust pH/nutrient status	
Include a clear statement, priority or action for removing, mitigating or dealing with INNS / invasive plants and other species / organisms (eg, Signal crayfish, Himalayan balsam)	Unclear why no strategy included in this regard; Himalayan balsam cited as an example where it can theoretically be eradicated with a strategy in place and strong community engagement (and examples of this already being successfully done in various river/catchment groups)
Use local Nature Recovery Groups and engage	
Nettles and weeds (specific action not explained)	
Dogs either banned completely, or enforcement of dogs kept on short leads, in nature reserves	To prevent disturbance, especially to ground-nesting birds
Ongoing management of urban trees in parks	Better solution needed than current (eg, Coleridge Park where new trees are dying)
Plant hedgerows around parks to buffer and prevent erosion; allow scrub to develop naturally in parkland	To improve habitats for birds and protect soil – especially where impacted by development in surrounding areas; Nightingale Park given as a good example
Encourage public to take care of plant life in public areas / parks (water urban trees using communal water butts)	Public engagement purposes and to help newly planted trees flourish
Public education / awareness, especially with regards to rarer or unknown species that need support	Educating the public about species that require support or that may not previously know about may increase awareness and engagement
Common swift: install Swift bricks or boxes as part of local authority/social housing renovations and redevelopment / clearer terms on promoting this	Renovation projects can destroy existing nesting sites, and surveys may miss presences of swifts if birds are away migrating at the time; multiple successful Cambridge projects cited
Common swift: revise Action 1 to require Swift bricks/boxes per BS 42021:2022; remove reference to House martins in this action and instead provide House martins their own actions as a priority species	Suggested revision would strengthens Swift protection and more nesting spaces also benefits other bird species and event bumble bees. Supporting citation references National Planning Practice Guidance and Duchy of Cornwall's Nansleden Nest Box Initiative

Species action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Common swift: revise Action 2 to require integrated Swift bricks in all new dwellings and commercial/community buildings. Additional specific text amends suggested as below: • Change 'onto' to 'in' or 'for'; • Change '25% of new dwellings' to 'one per new dwelling on average'; • Correct 'secures' to 'secured'; • Change 'swift boxes' to 'swift bricks'; • Change 'under the eaves of a building' to 'close to roof level' • Change 'at least 5 metre above the ground' to 'at least 5 metre above the ground if possible'	Current target of 25% is too low, best practice would be 1 nest box per unit (100% of dwellings). Supporting citation references National Planning Practice Guidance, BS 42021:2022; current target not compliant
LNRS listed species to be linked to site-specific action plans (multiple mentions)	To ensure wider range of species are protected and secured for the future
Expand area suitable for Autumn Ladies Tresses	Opportunities cited near Swaddywell Pit being explored by Langdyke Trust but action need not be site specific
Add Castor Hanglands as a location, under Crested cow wheat	Significant populations present in this area
Consider similar actions for House martins, Bats and other species, as are listed for Swifts	Effective for Swifts and would broaden habitat provision and long-term effectiveness for multiple species
All actions to be made more specific / less vague in terms of responsibility of actions and measures of success	
More monitoring of species to be included in actions	
Reword Marsh Carpet entry	To note that disturbance and management by grazing can be positive for establishing new areas
Deer control	Increasing populations cause significant impact to ground level plants and shrubs, impacting nest sites and diversity
Focus on protecting ancient / established habitats rather than on creating new ones	Established ecosystems have flourish over time and can be dependent on site-specific factors
Stone Curlew: expand conservation area beyond East Cambs/current focus area	Scope is too narrow and while rare, these birds are present in other locations (eg, Lark Rise Farm, Sunnica large-scale solar farm) and actions should reflect their full local distribution and protect them against potential impacts of development in these areas

Species action	Rationale for inclusion (if given)
Improve grass verge management and mowing regimes / ensure contractors are working in accordance with biodiversity guidelines	Ensuring contractors are operating sympathetically with biodiversity is 'difficult, not to say impossible'
Turtle doves: add 'habitat mosaics' into grouping	'Farmland' is too broad a catch-all term for habitat requirements
Elm: adjust to reference 'elm woods'	All relevant habitats in which elm occurs should be included in the action
Ensure that developers are held accountable and that policies are enforced	
Management of woodland and woodland corridors, particularly along rivers with scrub on banks	
Better river management (eg, in the Foxton area)	Water levels 'killing' chalk streams
More focus on 'fringe' areas	Efforts appear to be focused on existing SSI areas to the detriment of other areas which are 'lagging behind'
Widen focus of actions, eg, shift from single-species focus in favour of assemblages and ecological guilds	Too narrowly focused on individual species and should be reframed with a broader perspective (SCP and ecological network) for a more comprehensive and effective approach
Link species actions to functional connectivity; include landscape-scale indicators; plan across boundaries	Species recovery depends on corridors and wider habitat area, not just, eg, nest boxes. Actions should specify outcomes such as range expansion and not rely solely on local management measures. Actions should be coordinated across regions and other LNRSs
Black tailed godwit: amend action 1 to 'maintain optimum water levels of wet grassland through the spring'	Water depth critical; breeding dependent on wet grassland rather than other wetland habitats
Black tailed godwit: amend action 3 to 'create new wet grassland habitat that is not subject to spring/summer flooding'	Additional comment: This should ideally be of a large enough size to reduce edge effects and be within 500m of the existing breeding sites at the Nene/Ouse Washes
Stone curlew: amend justification text to 'vulnerable to disturbance and land-use change'. Amend supporting action 1 to mention 'Special Protection Area', not 'Special Area of Conservation'	There is little evidence of predation being a generic issue
Goldilocks buttercup: amend reference of 14 spp to 6	Only 6 spp are listed
Corncrake: amend action 1 to 'this should ideally be in proximity to existing release sites'	

Potential species actions for removal

Fewer comments were provided in response to this question, only 10 free text responses (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar). As well as being less specific and constructive as some previous comments, there appears to be a general message suggesting little need to remove actions but rather more a need to reframe or reword them. Additionally, two comments/respondents indicated that while no actions need be removed, there was a wish for their land to be removed from the strategy; further details of this point are included within the table below.

As in the previous question, there were comments suggesting the focus shift to habitat management and genetic diversity (impacting disease resistance) instead of on specific species – for example, supporting bird species by addressing declining insect populations rather than focusing on nest boxes. To be effective, actions must be adequately enforced and monitored.

Two comments also make reference to supporting letters and documents provided separately to the consultation survey itself; responses in this format have been reviewed separately in *Additional submissions* section.

Below is a summary of responses provided by participants with regards to actions for removal from the LNRS priority species list, alongside rationale for removal, where given.

If there are any actions you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:

Species action	Rationale for removal (if given)
Common swift: action 1 – suggested revision of wording	Respondent referenced previous question response, regarding best practice in BS 42021:2022 – alongside suggestion to remove reference to House martins and allocate them as their ow priority species
Common swift: action 2 – suggested revision of wording	Respondent referenced previous question response, regarding increasing the nest box target from 25% to 100% to meet best practice guidance
'My land should be removed from the strategy' *(2 respondents apparently referring to the same land)*	Respondent states their land will 'never provide G1A grassland as suggested'; refers to land at Red Fen Road, Little Thetford, CB6 3HW
General change of focus	Respondent suggests a more general and joined-up approach to increasing wildlife would be more successful than 'spot' species reintroductions
General reframing of actions	Species-specific actions (such as for Oxlip and Stone curlews) are essential but should not be presented in isolation, but embedded in wider ecological processes (eg, recovery of ancient woodland networks and farmland)

Observations

The responses show clear support for the actions set out in the priority species list, with most respondents agreeing while only a very small minority expressed disagreement. Comments emphasised that effective action should be closely tied to managing habitats and mitigating the impacts of development. A number of species were repeatedly mentioned, particularly Swifts. Many respondents called for clearer, enforceable commitments and stronger monitoring, noting that species recovery is dependent on well-managed habitats, connectivity, and accountability in delivery. Suggestions for removals were minimal, with most feedback focusing instead on strengthening or reframing actions rather than discarding them.

Mapping

Overview

The mapping section of the consultation generated constructive responses and feedback, with respondents offering detailed site-specific corrections, suggestions for new additions, and comments on the functionality and clarity of the maps. Of those that completed the question, just over half of respondents (56.1%) strongly agreed or agreed that the Local Habitat Map accurately reflects areas of potential importance for biodiversity, though 21.7% expressed disagreement (and 22.2% indicated neutrality), signalling that there are areas potentially requiring refinement.

Some respondents praised the ambition of the LNRS and the evidence base underpinning the maps but also called for more ground-truthing and engagement with farmers, landowners, conservation groups, and local councils to ensure actions are practical, locally informed and compatible with existing land management and permissions.

APIBs and opportunity areas – free text questions

The following section provides observations from responses given to free text questions, regarding suggestions for corrections to the APIB map layer, and comments related to the opportunity areas map (given alongside indication of agreement level).

Please see later sections of this report for further mapping commentary including areas suggested for addition or removal from the local habitat maps.

General observations

Multiple useful/constructive responses, including specific suggestions for corrections or amendments for the mapping, were provided in both questions within this section, alongside some wider comments about locations within the region and their usage. For example, St Neots was suggested as an area that could become a future APIB if managed correctly, but this is not directly a suggested correction for the current mapping.

As well as the suggested revisions, this section did produce a number of positive and encouraging comments, including broadly in favour of taking action for nature ('agree that all areas are of importance', 'we need every bit of habitat that there is') as well as for the mapping process itself and wider LNRS (*'Rewilding, Everywhere, All at Once, driven by local communities. Thank-you!', 'I strongly support the identification of these areas within the Local Habitat Map and the evidence that underpins them', 'I welcome inclusion of these areas within the LNRS … it*

recognises those areas with particular potential for supporting the overall strategy…') – but with some suggestion that the plans could be more ambitious in places.

There was some also criticism of the mapping, including multiple calls for further, more collaborative consultation moving forward, such as with landowners, conservationists/ environmentalists and local charities, as well as with other organisations including parish councils, governmental bodies and, for example, the Forestry Commission to prevent potential conflicts in objectives and priorities – and to ensure that priorities and actions are 'ground-truthed', informed by local knowledge of the land. Both more testing and refinement is suggested to ensure plans reflect 'functional connectivity' and to minimise the chance of a 'scattergun' approach, reducing anomalies and increasing trust in the project (*'The map is a good start but it seems it requires further development for it to be a robust pillar of the LNRS', 'While I cannot strongly support the Local Habitat Map in its current form, I see great potential for it to guide effective habitat actions. It identifies core biodiversity sites and overlays areas of opportunity. Still, it could be enhanced…'*). Comments also suggest that farmers in particular may need further consultation as well as 'a lot of persuading' to change their practices to become nature friendly.

As with other sections of the report, respondents consistently flag development pressures as a perceived risk to nature recovery, citing specific schemes such as housing allocations (Castor/ Ailsworth), transport infrastructure (guided busway), and energy projects (Kingsway solar farm). People suggest these proposals will fragment corridors and undermine habitats, preventing future biodiversity gains.

A number of comments in mapping sections made reference to the functionality and usage of the maps themselves, including:

- **Application and strategy:**
  - *'The map identifies some important areas, but it does not adequately capture what an LNRS Local Habitat Map is meant to do under the Environment Act.'*
  - *'… at a wider level the mapping does not appear to present a strategic approach to some objectives such as increasing connectivity between habitats…'*
- **Resolution and zooming / scaling:**
  - *'… hard to judge the accuracy of the local wildlife sites where I live … they disappear at the resolution I need to see them … I hope this gets resolved for the final strategy mapping…'*
  - *'… county wildlife sites are not visible when zoomed in'*
  - *'… county wildlife sites disappear from view when you zoom in on the map … it appeared as if several sites were not included in the mapping'*
  - *'It would be good id County Wildlife sites were visible at all scales'*
  - *'ACB layer disappears from the Habitat Map when zooming in so as to make it difficult to distinguish small sites within the mapping. This may be intentional but limits the ability of consultees to distinguish where boundaries between mapping areas lie and if small sites have been included / excluded'*

- **Unclear / lack of prioritisation:**
  - *'...many locations (noted within NPTs area of interest) appear to have multiple actions attached to them, ie woodland, grassland and wetland actions all sitting on the same site – but without prioritisation between them ... this may be due to limitations within the mapping system, or that there is equal applicability of all three actions to the site but it is potentially confusing for the user...'*
  - *'... the mapping presents the actions all as being of equal weight of importance. The plan would benefit from areas which most benefit from such connectivity being enhanced in the mapping'*

APIBs / existing designated nature sites

The 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)' map layer shows existing designated nature sites. If you have any corrections, please use the comment box below.

42 free text comments were provided in response to this question (as well as a handful of responses indicated 'no', 'no comment', 'N/A' or similar). Responses contained several suggestions for specific corrections for the map, which are detailed in the table below, though some additional and more general comments were also included, which follow at the end of the table.

Correction suggested	Rationale for correction (if given)
Coton Orchard Should be identified as an Area of Priority for Biodiversity (APIB)	Described as a traditional orchard and a designated County Wildlife Site with numerous red-listed and Red Data Book species, plus other species of conservation concern
Duxford Parish Two Protected Roadside Verges (PRVs) missing from the map	Noted as absent but no further explanation provided
Gamlingay Cinques A Wildlife Trust site missing from the map	
Gamlingay Nature Conservation Area (copse by St Mary's cemetery) Missing from the map	
Campkins Close, Linton Not all areas shown, example given here where parts appear missing	Described as 'only shown to the path' and only 3/4 of the church yard is shown
River Granta Should itself be included as APIB	Described as a rare chalk stream, with unique habitat value. Housing development east and west of Linton is encroaching on it, threatening habitat integrity
River Granta Should itself be included as APIB Isleham Nature Reserve field Should extend to Crooked Ditch	

Correction suggested	Rationale for correction (if given)
Station Road Wood and Wood by Chalk Farm Should be added to the map	
Spring Common, Ambury Road, Huntingdon	Respondent indicated belief this was a County Wildlife Site. No specific map correction stated (*assumption may be this location is highlighted for specific inclusion*)
Land between Mepal & Sutton (Old Sutton Road area)	Concern expressed for this location with a broad suggestion for it to be recognised as a significant and 'irreplaceable' site for biodiversity (extensive list of rare species from decades of rewilding). No specific map correction stated (assumption may be this location is highlighted for specific inclusion)
Haslingfield Quarry area (Chapel Hill) Should be chalk grassland (designated as mixed deciduous woodland [Wo3A] on LNRS map)	Further explanation states that 'the whole of Chapel Hill between Chapel Hill Road and the Harston/Haslingfield road (the route of EW rail) has been incorrectly designated and conflicts with findings of the Cambridge Nature Network ground truthing research. Additional note suggested that the 'white stripe' on the map, assumed to be East West Rail route, should be considered for appropriate enhancement (chalk grassland creation, or a mix of grassland and woodland)
Money Hill (near Haslingfield Quarry) Should not be designated as woodland	Should be designated for grassland or mixed habitat (alongside hedge improvements and strategic small spots of trees), described as more appropriate for the chalky areas of soil, and the usage of the space (area boasts an 'iconic' 360-degree view which would be obscured by woodland)
Red Fen Road, Little Thetford Land requested for removal from mapping	Stated as 'Thetford Corner' on the map, landowner requests removal of this area alongside written confirmation, as well as direct involvement in future review processes
Isleham Local (Railway) Nature Reserve Extend mapped area	Reserve runs further to the west than is indicated on the map
Spring Close Not fully recognised/designated	Recognised for veteran trees but also is a chalk grassland site and habitat for various plants and animals; a County Wildlife Site
Protected Verge (PRV) S29 (Shepreth) – To be added	Multiple comments requesting inclusion

Correction suggested	Rationale for correction (if given)
Land east of Harston/Haslingfield Road Should not be designated as grassland	Land contains springs and is often wet, may be more appropriately designated to support wet woodland
Whittlesey Designation should be reviewed	A green area recommended for reed attention but there is more to consider in this location (no further specifics given)
Grimeshaw Wood and Highlees Spinney – specifically the Spinney (woodland between Benland and A47, North Bretton) Appeared to be missing from the map	This area is a County Wildlife Site and contains ancient woodland
Coldham's Common LNR boundary to be corrected	Boundary appears incorrect (includes sports pitches and Barnwell Lake)
Haslingfield (chalk waterways and existing woodland [adjacent to School Lane and Jubliee Wood]) Should be considered as APIB	Rare habitats (chalk streams on an international level, woodland locally)
Croft Close Nature Reserve (north-west edge of Histon, immediately north of Abbey Farm) Missing from map	A County Wildlife Site
RSPB Ouse Fen Mapping to be adjusted	Entirety of 'existing restored cells' should be mapped as APIB as 'lowland fen irreplaceable habitat'
RSPB Ouse Washes Purles Bridge Pilot Project Mapping to be adjusted	Should be mapped as APIB as 'lowland fen irreplaceable habitat'
Brewery Field, Duxford Missing as a Local Nature Reserve designation	Shows as 'extensively white' on the map but lots of rich, biodiverse areas here. Rewilded since 2018, with chalkland botany, red-listed birds, woodland, further fallow fields in the vicinity and PRVs

Other comments, outside of specific corrections for the APIB map, include the below, some of which relating to particular locations:

- **Castor Hanglands**
  - Described as an extremely important site, which should be preserved and not turned into 'urban extensions'

- **Lynch Wood, Peterborough**
  - Badger setts and other animal habitats now established here (area previously used for horse riding) but Nene Park Trust have applied for planning permission to change the use from pastureland; farm is based on the banks of the River Nene and contains flourishing wet woodlands

- **St Neots**
  - Parts of this area could 'easily' become APIBs if managed correctly
- **Haslingfield area**
  - Comments called for a wish for more APIBs in this area and a hope for the strategy to help in that regard
- Some areas have been assigned actions not in line with current or optimal management. Comment includes suggestion that local charities are consulted to ensure local knowledge is adequately reflected
- Mapping does not appear to include some 'other national government priority zoning', meaning that some priorities and opportunities may be missed or conflicts may occur between LNRS objectives and those of the Forestry Commission or RPA

Opportunity areas / areas that could become of particular importance

There were 198 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation survey, with 160 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 198 responses.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Local Habitat Map accurately captures the 'areas that could become of particular importance' for biodiversity?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
46 (23.2%)	**65** (32.8%)	**44** (22.2%)	**30** (15.2%)	**13** (6.6%)	**160**

There appears to be moderate support for the Local Habitat Map, with just over half of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing (56.0%) that it accurately reflects areas of potential importance for biodiversity. Around one in five respondents selected neutral, while a notable minority (21.8%) expressed disagreement, indicating that while the map is broadly accepted, there are concerns or uncertainties among some respondents about its accuracy or coverage.

Please provide any comments below in support of your answer.

In addition to the above responses, 104 free text responses were provided to give further explanation; common themes and topics, where prevalent, are summarised below. Responses to this question also included a number of suggested additions, removals, and amendments to the mapping. It is assumed that these free text comments will directly correspond to suggestions added on the interactive maps in later questions but may not represent a finite list in that regard. Suggestions given in free text have been listed, alongside rationale where provided, in the table that follows.

- **Concern about omissions and desire to add local sites:** many respondents felt important places were missing, especially small but valuable features and urban/para-urban sites. Multiple specific sites/locations were given as having been overlooked for biodiversity

potential (see later list) but more broadly, spaces such as allotments, cemeteries, churchyards, and roadside/county verges (as corridors) were given reference for inclusion and consideration – as well as a handful of comments generally stating that areas were missing, without any indication of which areas they were.

- **Fix classifications:** multiple respondents highlighted areas they believed to be mislabelled on the maps, such as rural areas indicated as urban (see later list).
- **Ground-truthing and engagement with local knowledge/landowners:** many comments question the habitat modelling and call for consultation with local expertise (Wildlife Trust, parish groups, farmers, farm clusters). Multiple landowners express disagreement with the maps on the basis that they were not contacted in consultation (described as 'unacceptable') and subsequently request removals of their land or reconsideration of actions applicable there.
- **Calls for better connectivity (functional, not just adjacent patches):** repeated requests for habitats to be linked and for wildlife corridors to be shown more explicitly, for the map to provide a more coherent nature recovery network (incorporating 'recognised spatial conservation planning' or a 'formal spatial conservation planning framework') rather than actions presented in isolation on a habitat-to-habitat (or species-to-species) basis.
- **Re-target actions to fit local soils, hydrology and land use:** multiple comments stressed the importance of ground-truthing and local geology/hydrology, to avoid incorrect assumptions and mis-categorisation of habitat types (such as placing woodland actions on dry, windswept hills, or not adequately distinguishing peat lowlands from higher claylands).
- **Conflict with existing allocations, permissions and active projects:** several highlight areas where suggested actions have been allocated in spaces where potentially conflicting activity is anticipated (such as parcels where housing development has been permitted).
- **Urban greenspaces, small features and 'white areas' matter:** a prevalent theme within the comments is the suggestion that urban and community spaces (such as verges, allotments, graveyards, school fields, parks) can provide corridors and should be mapped
- **Usability, clarity and transparency of the map:** multiple respondents suggested that maps were unclear, difficult to use/navigate, or displaying inaccurately, with some call for clarified input and criteria and better map functionality for use.

Suggested additions to mapping (given in free text)

Addition suggested	Rationale for addition (if given)

Cottenham Large scrapes/ponds (created with New Life on the Old West); Crested newt population in Tennison Manor; Turtle dove plots; land in Government Funded Wildlife and Forestry Schemes	These 'major local' enhancements have been omitted

Addition suggested	Rationale for addition (if given)
Duxford Parish Several large areas of rough grassland	Areas described as ex-arable fields that are re-wilding due to abandonment and providing habitats for, eg, skylarks. These could be linked easily with adjacent river networks as some are floodplain grasslands. Duxford area described as having a strong biodiversity strategy and action plan in place but overlooked in the strategy
Magog Down South slope, suggested designation for grassland	Opportunity to join up biodiversity 'hot spots' (connecting hilltop Golf Course SSSI with Dernford Fen and water meadows and river margin), for connectivity and to keep Green Belt openness
Area north of Huntingdon, west of Ramsey	Despite intensive arable use here, respondents believe there are sites with potential, and the area should not be overlooked
Shelfords / Stapleford / Sawston Create joined wildlife corridors; consider tunnelling if busway proceeds	Concern locally that 'very few green areas' will be built over, including the planned guided busway (tunnelling suggested to maintain connectivity and leave green areas undisturbed)
Nine Wells, Hobson Park, Trumpington Orchard, Trumpington Meadows Wildlife and nature corridor	Described as missing
Lower Field, Gamlingay	Described as missing
Windmill Gardens, Wisbech	Described as missing, contains known Bee orchid colonies with sympathetic mowing regimes in place
River Granta Upgrade to top APIB	
Weston Colville & West Wratting Farmland surrounding local woods	Local woods are (correctly) included on mapping, but surrounding farmland is also important for biodiversity, being arable with a mix of field margins, hedgerows and woods
Chippenham Fen Expand designation	Current coverage shown as only partial and should be expanded 'in all directions'

Mepal area (near Ouse Washes) Add several omitted areas / opportunities	Multiple local sites that have not been identified in mapping; comments there is 'plenty of opportunity' here
Stapleford Granary (Bury Road) Traditional orchard in this area	A small area here that has not been mapped, but identified for wildlife-friendly management and fruit variety conservation
Buckden	Perceived lack of identified areas in this area

Addition suggested	Rationale for addition (if given)
RAF Molesworth Should be included	Described as a high-quality habitat mosaic with priority species
Spaldwick Ridge and furrow fields to be added	Fields with neutral-grassland indicators not included
Spaldwick & Stow Longa Add elm woodland	Significant elm woodland (along rights of way) described as missing
Paxton Pits Add scrub/early successional habitat areas here	Key areas described as missing
Northstowe Lakes Add as potential area of interest	Described as missing, with biodiversity assets cited (alongside broader comment that connectivity is lacking)
Godmanchester Add triangle between Cooks Stream and car park as opportunity area	Described as a 'tangle of wilderness' that supports wildlife but is outside the mapped boundary
Land south of Castor Hanglands	Suggested as an area for particular importance for biodiversity
Cambridge (large graveyards, eg, Histon Rd, Mill Rd)	These sites (and these kinds of sites) are described as missing, but very biodiverse
John Clare countryside Include as a priority area	Multiple comments in support of this location's inclusion and protection; described as a fragile landscape of great importance for biodiversity (and historical significance) and for the urban area of Peterborough
Stourbridge Common & Midsummer Common Include within grasslands	Suggested for enhanced management
Cambridgeshire fens (area of lowland peat) Should be included	Described as some of the deepest peat areas in the UK and a government priority for GHG

Whitewater Brook (west of Peterborough) Should be included	Various actions shown in the surrounding area, but the brook itself is omitted from rivers and streams actions; should be added or actions on adjacent land should extend to include it
Cambridge, Rustat Road Add acid grassland area near here	Described as one of a number of small areas of urban environment, providing habitat not widely available
Cambridge Nature Network areas (such as Quy Park, Wilbraham Fen) For addition	Areas referenced in the CNN are missing from the mapping and it's unclear what treatment will be applied there
Addition suggested	**Rationale for addition (if given)**
Bretton Park (partly sports grounds)	Mentioned as an opportunity for enrichment
Haddenham (school playing field) For addition	Original village playing field is included but the school one should be too
Whittlesey & Peterborough area, natural wetlands	More attention needed to these areas
Scheduled Monument Sites (historical sites) For review and inclusion	Highlighted as having not been mapped but these sites can provide opportunities for habitat improvement (eg, while woodland creation may not be suitable, grassland enhancement is possible); excluding these sites undervalues their ecological delivery potential
School fields, cemeteries, churchyards, parks, playing fields, allotments, verges, droves (general) For inclusion as urban opportunities	Unclear as to why not included on the maps; great opportunity for wildlife corridors and connectivity (even if only on margins)
Small ponds (general) Identify and include	Suggested that it would be helpful to include the numerous small ponds in the area, as better managed could support wildlife

Suggested removals to mapping (given in free text)

Removal suggested	Rationale for removal (if given)
Tan House (Burwell)	Identified as a private garden and its inclusion has been questioned
Dogsthorpe (FCC site, Peterborough) Remove ACB from areas with extant permissions	Proposed inclusion conflicts with 'approved restoration strategy and existing permissions on the site' including solar development

Removal suggested	Rationale for removal (if given)
Ken Stimpson school playing fields, Werrington Correction suggested	Incorrectly designated as 'urban landscape', requires correction
Trumpington Meadows (WT reserve) Correction suggested	Shown on the map as 'urban greenspace for enhancement' but comments state this is not an inaccurate description – to be corrected to show as a priority for neutral grassland or habitat mosaic creation, or marked as a site-specific action
Middle Farm (Great Fen) Correction suggested	Shown on the habitat map as wetland creation, which is described as incorrect (and in conflict with plans for soil-appropriate habitat banks on the land in alignment with Great Fen masterplan)
Land south of Great Fen area Correction suggested	Much of this land described as 'higher claylands' and priorities should be for meadow, scrub, woodland and pond creation rather than wetland creation; distinctions not made for soil type
Great Fen & Wicken Fen Revise approach to large-scale wetland creation here	Revisions needed to better reflect 'ecological realities', with suggestion for a mixture of wetland creation on peat soils / low-lying land with habitat mosaics on higher, drier land. Creating site specific actions would better reflect the variety of habitats at a landscape scale
Spring Close (Burwell) Review categorisation	Current mapping shows only part of Spring Close; respondent asks for consistent categorisation of the whole area. Comments also refer to the stream after it leaves Spring Close, which should have a buffer zone indicated on the mapping
Priory Wood (Burwell) Amend action tags	A candidate for understorey planting but as former arable land this area has no understorey seed bank; introduced plants are browsed by muntjac, so fencing is needed
Haslingfield area (including south of here) Review designations and actions	Suitability of proposed woodland is questioned; it is suggested that a mix of grassland and woodland would be more appropriate (likewise suggested for Wellhouse Meadow)
Haddenham/Aldreth fenland (to Sutton) Review designations	Local agricultural use indicates wetland creation here may be inappropriate
Nene Parkway embankment (south of river) Correct habitat type listed	This area has been identified as We3A wetlands but are dry grassland/scrub

Removal suggested	Rationale for removal (if given)
Wilbrahams area Retarget actions and associated areas	Conversion of large areas of arable land into grassland/woodland could be more targeted to areas of lesser agricultural value. Additional suggestion to extend the Wilbraham Fen SSSI into adjacent Fisher's Fen
Thornhaugh (FCC) Update mapping to more accurately reflect habitats on the site	Designated as a former quarry to be restored to agricultural grassland, but site has naturally regenerated and presents more diverse and quality habitat mosaic than would be achieved with the suggested planning
Whittlesey Road, Peterborough (Persimmon) Review 'blanket' river buffer actions	Comments describe current proposed actions as a 'blanket approach' without site-specific consideration and contest the suggestion of a 50m buffer zone has been applied either side of all rivers/main rivers, which is described as excessive, and may have further implications on developable land moving forward. Comments also suggest the indicated buffer actions have been applied inconsistently and missing from some applicable areas of the map. Site-specific buffer distances to be considered instead of the 'blanket approach'
Kingsway Solar Farm area Review suggestions in line with proposed plans here	The proposed site will cover portions of land indicated as APIB (and in close proximity to SSSI habitats) – this could preclude future biodiversity potential on the mapped land, with concern of 'long-term and irreversible impacts on the local ecological network'
Castor & Ailsworth Review allocations against upcoming development plans	Comments indicate the area identified as an opportunity area is proposed to be allocated for large-scale residential and commercial development, which would undermine/damage the land's potential for biodiversity
Histon & Impington (general) Review needed	Comment describes some of the details as not 'quite right' but no further specifics provided
Urban sites (general) Opportunity for further improvements	Urban areas can be improved through planting (wildlife grass and flower mixes), allowing scrub alongside woodland, reviewing mowing practices etc – great potential for thriving habitats. Further connectivity in towns would benefit wildlife
Arable sites (general, but Devils Dyke listed as an example) Suggestion for more hedges and headlands to improve these areas	Urban areas can be improved through planting (wildlife grass and flower mixes), allowing scrub alongside woodland, reviewing mowing practices etc – great potential for thriving habitats. Further connectivity in towns would benefit wildlife

Removal suggested	Rationale for removal (if given)
Arable sites (general) Suggestion that an 'arable farming connectivity option should include a recognition of 'extreme nature friendly farmed fields' (dense wildlife 'assist' strips, no insecticides, flowering companion cropping, decent field margins and hedges, lower levels of herbicide...)	Respondent suggests that a long-term commitment to delivering this kind of arable field as an 'impressive connectivity opportunity' would be possible and could apply to any arable land
Prioritisation (general point) Review / fine tune prioritisation	Areas (eg, west of Peterborough) where all areas are indicated raises questions about prioritisation
Soil type and geology consideration (general point) Review actions accounting for soil types and 'local geology'	Some proposed actions, such as for establishing grassland, may not be suitable or successful based on soil type (eg, heavy clay west of Cambridge designated for flower-rich chalky grassland, which is suggested as unlikely to succeed). Additional example given of proposal to establish woodland on Chapel Hill, which is suggested as too dry and windswept for this
Council land (general point) Should be included in mapping and take priority over private land	Respondent suggests that council lands should be prioritised 'as it is within your control and influence', so to avoid impacting private landowners and enable actions to commence without delay; comments highlight no council land has been captured in the strategy, which has been viewed with cynicism

Additional comments in this section, with mention of specific locations but not directly suggesting revisions for the mapping included:

- *'Millbridge Brook Meadows is a stream side parkland which was gifted to the village to be used and an informal recreation space for residents. Volunteers help maintain the space and improve its biodiversity, so it has a dual function.'*
- *'Cinques Common is managed by the WT and is maintenance plan is the remit of WT, together with Gamlingay Wood. Residents experience frustration when access due to ground conditions or works prevent access to the wood for long periods. Access/alternative routes should be prioritised for residents to ensure continued resident engagement in supporting and enhancing biodiversity.'*
- *'Corner of Reach Road / track out to Devils Dyke was, somehow, designated for light industrial some years ago. We have had to fight off a small gas fired power station on this site previously.'*
- *'It is interesting to see that the site of the new East Barnwell Community Centre on the old Bowling Green in Abbey is included. The previous Bowling Green site is currently being developed with large buildings for a community centre & flats. This however will include a new community garden which Abbey People will run, and the treatment of the verge outside will be crucial along the green corridor.'*

- *'A concern in March is that trees are continually being chopped down and not replaced, particularly along the riverside both private and public land.'*
- *'Assuming land in Flood Zone 2 is wet enough to become wet woodland is irrational and not based in science.'*
- *'Badger setts are under threat at Lynch Wood in Peterborough. Lynch Wood was a horse riding school until pre Covid providing grazing for local badgers and a habitat of other animals. The Nene Park Trust, despite being made aware of badgers being on the site, have applied for planning permission to change the use of the site from Pasture land. The farm is on the banks of the River Nene adjacent to Lynch Wood and the Castor Flood Meadows, which includes Wet Woodlands with many varied butterflies, bats, bees, birds of prey including owls.'*

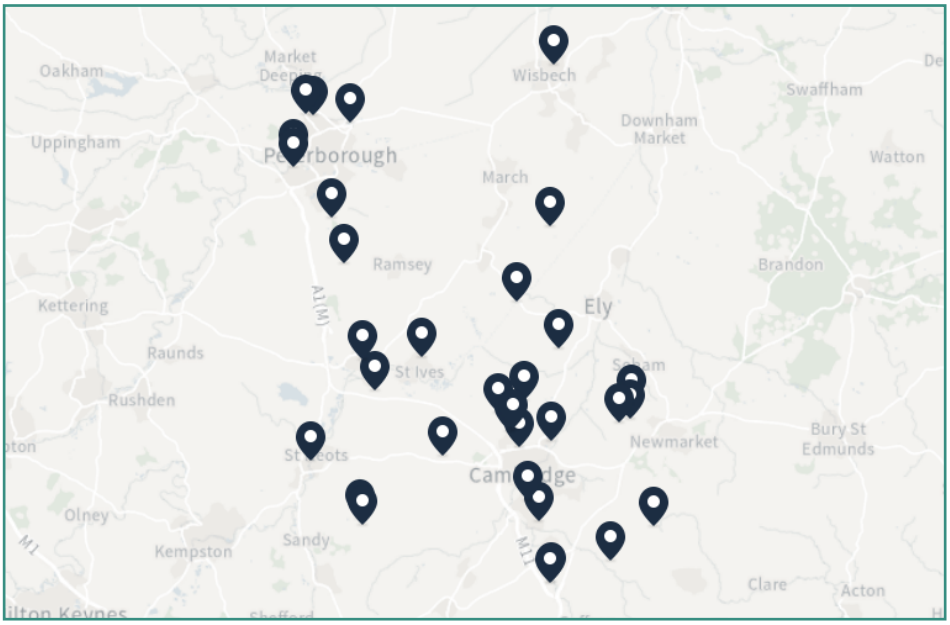
Quantitative summary of sites submitted for inclusion / removal

Would you like to suggest the addition or removal of any area within the mapping?

There were 232 responses to this question, out of 358 total respondents participating in the consultation survey, with 126 people not answering this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 232 responses.

86	146	126
37.1%	62.9%	
Yes	No	Did not answer

Following the above question, participants were then prompted to indicate on the maps any areas they would like to see added to the maps, and any areas they would like to see removed from the map. Each participant was able to suggest up to 5 additions and up to 5 removals, alongside additional information or rationale for each, directly onto the interactive maps.



This section reviews the quantitative data from the submissions, this being the total number of suggested additions and removals given, as detailed below.

Analysis of the detail provided with these additions and removals have been created by the LNRS team separately. Please find a brief summary of this analysis below the following statistics.

Additions

If there is an area you would like to select to be added to the map, please do so below / If in the previous question you selected an area to be added to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, please provide more details below, including the reasons why it should be included.

	Shapefiles submitted	Corresponding comments
Add 1	56	63
Add 2	33	32
Add 3	17	17
Add 4	8	9
Add 5	6	6
Total	**120**	**127**

Removals

If there is an area that you would like to select to be removed from the map or that you wish to discuss further, please do so below / If in the previous question you selected an area that you would like to be removed from the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, or have any other comments on this area, please provide more details below with your reasoning.

	Shapefiles submitted	Corresponding comments
Remove 1	17	27
Remove 2	8	7
Remove 3	5	5
Remove 4	4	4
Remove 5	3	3
Total	**37**	**46**

It is noted that in some cases in both additions and removals above, the number of comments added exceed the number of shapefiles added (which is also reflected in the total numbers).

It is notable that there are significantly fewer suggested removals from the maps, than additions; this broadly indicates a level of support of the areas and priorities already provided on the map. Additionally, where there are notable numbers of suggestions for inclusion, this indicates a level

of active engagement from respondents.

Additions and removals by district

The table below shows the number of pins by district, highlighting where local sites were most frequently identified for inclusion or amendment.

District	Additions	Removals
Cambridge City	8	2
South Cambridgeshire	56	20
Huntingdonshire	18	5
Fenland	7	0
East Cambridgeshire	19	8
Peterborough City	12	2

Mapping submissions were spread across the county, with respondents suggesting additions and removals in every district. The highest number of submissions came from South Cambridgeshire, which aligns with the survey demographics, as this district also recorded the strongest overall engagement (38.8% of all respondents).

Summary of further analysis of suggestion map additions and removals

The LNRS team adopted a rigorous and transparent process to review all mapping submissions received through the public consultation. All data was downloaded from the consultation portal as CSV files. Each download was time-stamped and stored in a master spreadsheet to ensure a clear audit trail. This systematic approach allowed the team to track responses accurately over time.

Individual shapefiles were downloaded and incorporated into a single QGIS project. Pins were grouped by response ID and visually coded – green for proposed additions and red for proposed removals – with each pin linked to its corresponding mapping comment as an attribute.

The mapped data was then taken to evaluation panels, which included representatives from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, local authority ecologists, and Martin Baker from the Wildlife Trust BCN. These panels undertook a detailed review of each pin, assessing whether the suggested additions or removals were justified. Their decisions and rationale were recorded in the spreadsheet for transparency and future reference.

Where changes were deemed appropriate, the agreed modifications were forwarded to Natural Capital Solutions, the project's GIS consultants, who implemented the required amendments to the mapping. This collaborative, multi-stage process ensured that all mapping submissions were handled with care, consistency, and accountability, ultimately strengthening the evidence base for the LNRS.

Further strategy feedback

If you would like to make any further comments, please provide them here.

There were 177 responses to the free text 'further comments' section.

Review of sentiment

The sentiment appears mixed-to-positive: respondents value the ambition and clarity of the strategy, yet many question deliverability, resourcing, and alignment with development decisions.

Some comments reflect strong engagement. Many respondents praise the LNRS vision and express willingness to contribute knowledge, volunteering and local projects. At the same time, there is scepticism about implementation, accountability, and conflicts with major developments (housing, transport schemes, and solar projects). Several note the consultation's accessibility and mapping usability, asking for clearer summaries, targets and mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.

Thematic analysis

The responses reflect a wide range of perspectives, with several common themes emerging.

Please see the accompanying spreadsheet which tags responses to this section by theme. Respondents make a number of recommendations for inclusion, references to location for consideration in mapping as well as wider comments.

There are notable similarities in themes to the early free text section, *Do you agree or disagree that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region?* In each case, many respondents welcomed the ambition and recognition of local priorities. Shared concerns also emerge clearly across both survey questions: funding and resourcing, implementation confidence, and accountability and enforcement are recurring priorities that respondents consistently see as critical to delivery.

Development pressures, particularly tensions between housing growth and nature recovery, and issues of mapping accuracy and usability also appear strongly in both sets of responses, reinforcing these as central themes of public concern.

There are additional themes identified in this section including mental health and wellbeing benefits, volunteering offers and requests for direct LNRS team contact, which were less visible in the earlier free text section.

A summary of the key themes is set out below detailing emerging themes first:

- **General feedback:** many respondents welcomed the LNRS, describing it as ambitious, comprehensive and well put together. Positive remarks show appreciation for the direction of the strategy and encouragement to proceed to delivery: *'I am very happy to see nature recovery plans being put into place and would like to support this strategy as a county councillor', 'Thank you for your work on this, it's a really good document which we can use as we update our own local nature recovery plan'.* Some respondents expressed scepticism about whether the LNRS would change outcomes on the ground, citing past experience and perceived lip service.

- **Recommendations for inclusion:** a number of suggestions for the LNRS were highlighted in this section of the survey responses. These are captured in the tagged data spreadsheets, and some illustrative examples are provided below:
  - *'Please consider verges etc as part of the wild habitats, and encourage villages / communities to do their bit by planting... how about a thyme verge...'*
  - *'Action is needed to ensure that the proposed new water sources (reservoirs/pipelines) are adequate to enable significant reduction to abstraction that allows springs and chalk streams to run all year with adequate flow, not just a slightly raised water table'*
  - *'Local farming cluster groups can speedily map their own areas and come up with appropriate plans to make wildlife corridors across their patch, as per one of the Lawson principles. They should be encouraged to do this, and funding provided to provide them with help to complete this now (funding for the salary of someone to help 1 day per week)'*
  - *'... although light pollution is mentioned as a problem in Part 1 there are no actions to address this. This is a large and growing problem with cheap LED lights, particularly on urban and rural industrial buildings, and has a major impact on invertebrates and their associated predators'*
  - *'...connecting across or under the A14 is a major challenge – perhaps solutions to these sorts of barriers should be identified and included in your planning'*
  - *'As part of next steps, the LNRS should also develop a natural capital investment plan to attract green finance ...'*
  - *'Local nature recovery would be improved by the reduced use of pesticides'*

- **Revisions/objections:** a number of respondents highlight revisions or raise objection in this free text response such as:
  - *'Wo3A – Objection is raised in respect of the precise wording of Draft Action Point ref. Wo3A... careful consideration should be given to alter the wording of the proposed Action Point to require expansions and/or new connections to existing established areas of woodland rather than an overly prescriptive amount of new woodland in terms of location, coverage and scale...'*
  - *'...part II page 36 I strongly disagree with the definition of urban, since when have villages and indeed some market towns been classed as 'urban', this is misleading and does not reflect the Cambridgeshire settlements. Please replace the first sentence'*

- **Mental health and wellbeing:** a few comments emphasised the benefits of nature for mental and physical health, advocating protection of accessible green spaces. A respondent requested information that can be utilised in the health settings to support staff and patients to get back to nature to support their health and wellbeing and called for comparison of mapped areas against areas of poor health outcomes and deprivation: '*Nature is essential to our mental and physical wellbeing', 'I would like to see greater clarity in communication about the virtuous cycle that this strategy can achieve for mental health, physical health economic and leisure time'.*

- **Volunteering/offer of assistance**: a number of respondents offered time and expertise, signalling readiness to contribute to delivery: '*I would be keen to implement and help develop policy locally', 'I am very interested in helping to define an appropriate butterfly/wildlife recovery strategy for the local area…', 'I would be very pleased to assist with any proposals that concern the area immediately around Isleham…'.*

- **Request for LNRS team contact**: a small number of responses asked for direct contact or meetings with the LNRS team to progress opportunities / resolve issues.

- **Public access**: respondents call for improved access to nature and wildlife-friendly crossings on roads: '*I feel it is so important to increase and improve nature and the environment in this area and improve the amount of land that people can access'.*

- **Unmapped areas**: a small number of respondents mentioned unmapped areas and asked for clarity as well as mechanisms to submit and deliver 'unmapped' actions: '*There should be a clear mechanism to ensure that unmapped measures can be delivered', 'In the draft LNRS it is sometimes unclear (without the Map open) what actions are intended as unmapped'.* Suggestions for resolution include postcode search with relevant actions.

- **Habitat priorities/actions**: a range of comments referenced habitat creation and management priorities across woodland, grassland, wetland and hedgerows as well as the importance of protecting open spaces and common land. Respondents often linked habitat action to connectivity and local opportunities. Some respondents make recommendations: '*I'd like to see some top priority habitats selected e.g. chalk streams, high riverbanks and*

drainage ditches, as these are of particular importance to the 'essence' of Cambridgeshire and not seen more generally across Britain – perhaps have them marked out for biodiversity net gain funding?'. A proportion of respondents raised concerns about the suitability of some proposed habitat actions. As one noted: '*There are areas where the suggested habitat actions are very questionable. This is fine if an ecologist is always consulted for what habitat actions are most appropriate at a given location. In this case, the interactive map could be a useful tool when considering landscape scale change and connectivity*'.

- **Species priorities/actions**: respondents highlighted species-focused priorities and actions, including bats and butterflies, asking for targeted measures and connectivity that support these species' needs: '*There is no augmentation to the springs, only to the meadows that support the orchids (SSSI)', 'I would like to make sure the future strategies involve more than tokenistic bug and birdboxes'*.

- **Policy integration / joined-up approaches (with planning, development, development etc)**: respondents emphasised that successful delivery of the LNRS depends on closer alignment with wider planning and policy frameworks. They noted the complexity of integrating biodiversity priorities with development and stressed the need for ongoing consultation with stakeholders. Concerns were raised that the list of referenced policies is incomplete, with calls to ensure that national strategies, such as the Government's Food Strategy 2022, are properly considered alongside local planning processes.

- **Location references (specifically named and general)**: many responses included specific sites and general local references for mapping or priority consideration, reflecting strong local knowledge. These are detailed in the tagged data spreadsheets, with some illustrative examples are provided below:

  – *'For additional clarity the two areas I proposed extend the grassland protection on the southern slopes of the Gog Magog downs to connect the broadleafed habitat and SSSI on the hill top to the village gardens, cemetry and churchyard on the west side of Haverhill Road and on the east side of Haverhill to include the windmill ruin and run alongside Haverhill Road down to the river margins already included in the strategy. This unique opportunity to link the three important habitats in your opportunity modelling document seems too good to miss'*

  – *'Gamlingay is part of St Ivel drainage Board as Millbridge Brook is a tributary and needs to be mapped'*

The following provides a concise overview of the recurring key themes. Some themes are grouped together where they overlap with points raised in earlier sections.

- **Accountability / enforcement:** respondents raised concerns about whether the LNRS will be enforced. Calls were made for annual reporting, measurable targets and independent oversight to build trust and ensure actions are delivered.

- **Funding / resourcing / monitoring and delivery:** a common theme centres around how actions would be funded and resourced. Respondents raised concerns that the LNRS could remain aspirational without secure, long-term investment and staff capacity.

Several respondents asked for clearer delivery detail and information around monitoring. Calls include: '*a publicly available, auditable annual report outlining progress against each strategic priority and target… Clear metrics and indicators to assess outcomes (e.g. hectares restored, species trends, community engagement)*'.

- **Orchard reference:** Coton Orchard was referenced with respondents expressing frustration at development proposals impacting the orchard, seeing them as contradictory to the LNRS vision.

- **Solar farms:** large-scale solar farm developments were seen as a threat to biodiversity and landscape character. While some acknowledged benefits when installments are well designed, most called for greater caution and alignment with LNRS priorities.

- **Strategy compilation and future implications:** a small number of respondents reflected on how the LNRS was compiled and its potential future role. Concerns were about process and how outcomes could be used by others. Respondents asked for clarity on the planning implications of LNRS designations, particularly where they overlap with sites that already have consent. A clear distinction was sought between undeveloped land suitable for biodiversity enhancements and land allocated or approved for development, together with reassurance that LNRS designations would not prevent delivery of permitted schemes or add new requirements that could impact development viability. Please also refer to the Agriculture, land use, pressures and landowner consent section below.

- **Development concerns / Infrastructure concerns:** a significant number of comments raised concerns that ongoing or proposed development could undermine nature recovery. Respondents referenced housing growth, infrastructure schemes and urbanisation as risks unless planning is aligned to LNRS priorities, existing corridors and ecological priorities: '*The interactive map shows that the 'All actions' red blob in the SW of the county will be dissected by EastWest railway. The EWR company needs to be made aware that proper land bridges/ tunnels will be required…*'.

- **Public engagement / education:** many called for strong public engagement and practical education, including schools and community groups. Respondents emphasised the need for simple ways to get involved and clear points of contact: '*As with most projects, communication is the key to the LNRS working. This consultation and resulting actions need to be publicised widely so smaller organisations and groups in the area can tap into the resources on offer*'.

- **Accessibility / usability, mapping and data:** several respondents described mapping as incomplete or difficult to use. Missing areas, overlay issues, explanatory tile covering key parts of the map, similarity of colours were noted, there were calls for ground-truthing. Feedback on mapping echoed earlier patterns of divergence, with a number of critical comments but also some recognition of positive features.

- **Climate / pollution**: respondents linked nature recovery to climate resilience and pollution reduction, citing sewage and air quality as priorities to address alongside biodiversity.

- **Church/churchyard reference**: as previously noted churchyards were cited as overlooked biodiversity opportunities. Respondents suggested these spaces could contribute to nature recovery if better recognised.

- **Strategy presentation**: some found the strategy materials long, complex and in parts repetitive, asking instead for downloadable documents, summaries and summary tables particularly relating to priorities and actions. A subset praised the clarity and presentation of the materials, noting the mapping portal's usefulness.

- **Text accuracy/unclear wording/revisions**: a number of respondents challenged elements of the strategy calling for revisions, asked for clearer wording – this is also noted in earlier sections.

- **Agriculture, land use, pressures and landowner consent**: comments stressed the need for balancing farming and food production with nature recovery, calling for better engagement with farmers and practical support. Some landowners requested engagement and, in some cases, removal of land from map, citing consent and questioning the legal weight of the mapping actions. There are also several calls for further consultation: '*This strategy should not be signed off yet – it needs more time, better outreach, and genuine collaboration', ' It is unclear what, if any, legal force the mapping of any action has. Presumably none (as it appears the classification has not included reference to landowners). Or if there is a consequence for landowners, this should be explicitly stated'.*

- **Local community involvement / empowerment**: some respondents called for collaboration with communities and local groups in shaping, delivering and updating the LNRS. A number of groups were suggested in the survey responses for engagement, such as BASC and GORT. Responses called for mechanism to allow local groups to provide updates about nature recovery activity and opportunities.

- **Water & river systems focus**: rivers and chalk streams featured prominently, with concerns about abstraction, sewage, flood risk and the need for catchment-scale action.

Farmers and landowners

Overview

Farmers and landowners are a key stakeholder group in the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, given their direct role in managing much of the land across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Their perspectives are therefore critical to understanding both the opportunities and challenges for successful implementation, and the following section reviews their feedback as a demographic.

Quantitative submissions review

20 respondents indicated they were either a farmer or landowner in the first question of the survey, which accounts for 5.6% of all respondents and 18.3% of all organisational respondents. These 20 respondents indicated a spread of locations (*percentages calculated out of 20 respondents*):

- East Cambridgeshire: **5 respondents** (25.0%)
- Fenland: **1 respondent** (5.0%)
- Huntingdonshire: **4 respondents** (20.0%)
- Peterborough City: **1 respondent** (5.0%)
- South Cambridgeshire: **8 respondents** (40.0%)
- Outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: **1 respondent** (5.0%)

It should be noted that two of these respondents are a husband and wife and therefore submitting responses that are not only in reference to the same farm/land, but much of their submitted free text information throughout the survey is identical. This will have an impact on some of statistical data provided (ie, where two votes for the same option will increase percentages) but may not have a notable impact on key themes and trends identified throughout free text fields.

Review of general sentiment

Do you agree or disagree that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region?

All 20 farmer/landowner respondents answered this question. The percentages below are calculated out of 20 responses.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
0 (0%)	**7** (35.0%)	**7** (35.0%)	**5** (25.0%)	**1** (5.0%)	**0** (0%)

Farmer and landowner responses show a mixed picture, with moderate agreement (35.0%) but equally high neutrality (35.0%) and a quarter expressing disagreement, indicating only light overall support and some clear reservations.

15 of these respondents went on to provide further explanation in support of their answer; common themes in these responses include the below.

Recognition of positive alignment

As the statistical data suggests, there is a level of agreement expressed for the LNRS and Lawton principles of '*bigger, better and more joined up*', with some farmers noting an alignment between the LNRS and their own efforts to develop environmentally sustainable farming. One notes that the recommendations for arable farming '*align with actions underway within our own business*', such as adapting peatland practices, managing water, and trialling wet farming. These positive views emphasise openness for opportunities for partnership where strategies are considered to be both realistic and collaborative.

Consultation / engagement with farmers

Comments consistently highlight that respondents feel that direct consultation with landowners is integral to the success of the LNRS, including several who express frustration that their land has been included without prior discussion with them, and those whose land has been wrongly categorised for habitats that do not reflect its use or condition. Comments suggest that this perceived lack of dialogue has caused mistrust in the process; the indication is that direct engagement with landowners is essential for fairness and transparency, but also for practical, realistic targets and overall success of the project, with the rationale given that farmers have the most intimate and practical understanding of their own landscape.

- *'... as an un-consulted landowner, with land included in the strategy in a way that means I cannot actually use my own land – I cannot allow my land to be included in your plan ...'*
- *"... Many of the proposals appear on farmland that I own and make my living from. I'm unhappy about this and will be objecting to having any of them imposed on me..."*
- *"... There has been no direct or individual consultation with the owners and occupiers of land identified for habitat improvement, in order to assess the likelihood of that land coming forward..."*

Funding, deliverability, and economic viability

Respondents highlight the absence of practical funding mechanisms and doubt whether the proposals are financially realistic – with some call for clarification in this regard. There is a common perception that 'there is no clear funding route', especially with uncertainty over government schemes which are closing, and the difficulty of accessing BNG or private finance. Similarly, there is some emphasis on perceived potential economic losses of moving land out of arable production and in general, the viability and deliverability of the LNRS on a wider scale and the achievability of its aspirations.

- *'... The LNRS cannot be considered to clearly set out how to improve nature recovery in the region unless it is deliverable. There is no consideration of deliverability within the proposed strategy...'*
- *'...Whether this plan is economically deliverable has to be questioned... How is this to be met?'*
- *'...the impact on land use and food production of LNRS, if delivered, would be massive. It would effectively lead to environmentally degraded land in the UK ... Is this really sustainable? It needs to be quantified before it can be considered...'*

Concerns over practical implementation

While many express agreement in principle, respondents question how elements of the strategy could be made to work on the ground. Overall, respondents fear that the strategy risks being aspirational rather than achievable: '*The principle of the report makes sense its implementation is questionable, as are its goals'*. One specific example was given regarding a 30% target (for land managed for the benefit of nature) which differs from county policy, with the suggestion this has not been clearly explained, and that a more targeted, deliverable approach is required.

Concerns specific to proposed livestock farming and conservation grazing actions include a lack of infrastructure, too few abattoirs and vets, and a lack of specific experience within the sector, which would impact the deliverability of managing the suggested changes.

Respondents highlight potential clashes with national infrastructure projects, housing demand, and planning policy – raising doubts about whether the strategy has the authority to deliver its goals, whether LNRS objectives can withstand overriding government priorities, suggesting environmental ambitions may be sidelined. '*National government policy will override, especially where major national infrastructure projects are in place or due to take place...', '...Demand for houses will be priority to environment...'*.

At least one respondent made comment on what is believed to be a lack of reference to the impact of the LNRS on climate change. For example, potential increases in methane emissions from a shift towards ruminant livestock, stating that '*it is not possible for the carbon balance of the proposals to be calculated*' and that these actions when scaled up across the region could cause a '*significant*' impact, and better understanding of factors like these is necessary before adoption of the strategy.

Council vs private land responsibilities

Several landowners feel unfairly targeted, suggesting that council-owned land should be prioritised before private holdings. There is some perception that the strategy '*has a remit to avoid council land and therefore leaving their land free to make the council profit, whilst preventing private landowners from profiting from their own property'*. As well as suggesting that this approach would also enable the LNRS to impact the greatest benefits to nature and biodiversity gains, this theme reflects broader concerns about fairness, accountability, and equitable burden-sharing.

Mapping gaps and missed opportunities

Some farmers raise site-specific concerns where high-value land (such as rare deep lowland

peat) has been omitted from the strategy, while other land has been wrongly classified. This undermines confidence in the evidence base and raises questions about how widespread such errors may be.

- *'... deep lowland peat which the government has prioritized as being a high priority to be rewetted to prevent GHG and soil loss, it seems inconceivable that it has not been included as an area of high potential priority for the Local Natural Recovery Strategy map...'*
- *'... my land previously had a crop of corn on it (it was not grassland) and is now an empty field with nothing on it therefore offering very little in the way of biodiversity ... this land will not achieve your aspirations as a G1A grassland site.'*
- *'...there are some potential conflicts and additional opportunities not yet recognised on two of their sites across the LNRS area. FCC own several sites across the area this response focuses on two; Dogsthorpe a closed landfill, and Thornhaugh a closed quarry, both of which are identified as 'areas that could become of particular importance'...'*

Connectivity and habitat design

Connectivity is recognised as a theme within the document, and is seen as a valuable principle which would be achievable with long-term commitment, but at least one respondent asks for 'the full range of what this means with case studies' to be spelled out. The same respondent goes on to suggest/give approval for measures ranging from wide field margins and hedgerows to corridors along infrastructure routes, and '*extreme nature-friendly farmed fields*'.

Balancing 'nature for nature' with human use

One respondent stresses the need for the LNRS to give greater weight to nature itself and prioritise habitats left undisturbed, warning that human activity (such as from food production as well as recreation) can limit recovery and that '*if given a chance, nature can recover remarkably quickly*'; the example of Knepp Castle was given here.

Review of sentiment relating to farmland habitats priorities and actions

Do you agree or disagree with the priorities for the farmed landscape habitat?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
4 (20.0%)	**5** (25.0%)	**4** (20.0%)	**2** (10.0%)	**0** (0%)	**5** (25.0%)

Farmer and landowner responses to farmed landscape priorities were mixed, with 45.0% strongly agreeing or agreeing and 10.0% disagreeing which is a more positive response than earlier sentiment express on whether they agree or disagree that LNRS clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region.

Additional comments on the priorities, where these were provided specifically in relation to farmed landscape, or in relation to land owned by this respondent group:

- Provided in the 'add' free text field:
  - *'Lowland deep peat as this is so rare in the UK and Cambridgeshire is one of only a handful*

of places that has this, and to carry on farming these in the same way will mean they disappear for good.'

- *'I agree that there is a need … however not at the expense of landowners who are not in position to set land aside in this way. Your strategy should my land be included will mean that I will never achieve my objective, nor will it achieve your aim as I will need to find an alternative means to make money from my property, resulting in no grassland and no 10% biodiversity net gain which would be a loss to nature.'*

- Provided in the 'remove' free text field:
  - *'On farmland what is the plan for food?'*
  - *'I don't believe any of these priorities need to be removed, however landowners should be spoken to prior to sites being included in your strategy to ensure that your proposals accommodate achievable and realistic outcomes for both the landowners and the LNRS. Currently for our land your goals are not aligned with our requirements for this site and therefore will never be achieved.'*

Do you agree or disagree with the actions for the farmed landscape habitat?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
1 (5.0%)	**7** (35.0%)	**6** (30.0%)	**1** (5.0%)	**0** (0%)	**5** (25.0%)

Additional comments on the actions, where these were provided specifically in relation to farmed landscape, or in relation to land owned by this respondent group:

- Provided in the 'add' free text field:
  - *'I believe your team should identify and contact all landowners prior to public consultation. This activity is part of government process for producing strategies. Should your team be unsuccessful in identifying and making contact with these landowners the site should be removed an alternative suitable site where contact was established, and mutual goals are achieved to be included instead.'*
  - *'An arable farming connectivity option should include a recognition of 'extreme nature friendly farmed fields' (dense assist strips, no insecticides, flowering companion cropping, decent field margins and hedges, lower levels of herbicide)… a long term commitment to deliver this type of arable field as part of connectivity would be possible.'*
  - *'Great to see farming being mentioned and recognised. But there is much emphasis on things like farm margins and hedgerows; given the area that is farmed in the county incorporating in-field actions (not just edge of field) could be much more significant and there should be more support for this. Within farming, there is reference to putting 10% into wildlife friendly options (p66) but it is not clear how this interacts with SFI and ELMS and how 10% is to be calculated: will areas in SFI that are in-field action such as no pesticide be included in the figure or just field margins etc. How will reduction in fertiliser for example be counted in this number?'*
  - *'Despite the fact that there are multiple references to using grazing as a management tool*

in the priority species list there is almost no mention of support for grazing and graziers and conservation grazing in the body of the report. More support should be given to smallholders to encourage conservation grazing and grazing as a land management tool.'

- Provided in the 'remove' free text field:
  - *'Farmland is in government schemes, true not all of it, because the land has to be a minimum size to qualify. If you're taking land out of production, where the food coming from?'*
  - *'I do not believe you should removed any of the actions, however I require you to remove my land from this strategy as you will never achieve your goals on the site.'*

Review of sentiment relating to species

Do you agree or disagree with the species included in the priority species list?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
0 (0%)	**10** (50.0%)	**5** (25.0%)	**0** (0%)	**0** (0%)	**5** (25.0%)

Half of the respondents agree with the species priorities with the remainder being neutral or not answering – which suggests support.

Do you agree or disagree with the actions included in the priority species list?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Did not answer
0 (0%)	**9** (45.0%)	**6** (30.0%)	**0** (0%)	**0** (0%)	**5** (25.0%)

Nearly half of the respondents agree with the species actions with the remainder being neutral or not answering – which suggests support.

Summary of further comments

If you would like to make any further comments, please provide them here.

As with previous sections (free text comments provided alongside indication of agreement levels), common themes from text provided in response to this question included:

- **Consultation / engagement with farmers:** a call for more time, better outreach and 'genuine collaboration', including multiple meetings for consultation with the county's farming community and the opportunity to ask questions and input into the strategy. Respondents emphasise farmers' roles as custodians of the land and show a desire to be actively involved, not sidelined. Some comments specifically request email contact in response to their comments, including confirmation of the removal of their land from the strategy and its mapping.

- **Funding, deliverability, and economic viability** and **Concerns over practical**

implementation: some question over the impact the LNRS can have and how quickly it can be implemented, with suggestion for the inclusion or empowerment of farming clusters to bring '*speedier results than waiting for a countywide strategy to be agreed*'.

- **Mapping gaps and missed opportunities:** further comment about mapping accuracy, including missed areas (deep peat area west of the Great Fen, a patch at Hatley Saint George) alongside an offer for collaboration, and demands for private land to be removed.

Additional themes of note from this section:

Balancing nature recovery with wider pressures

Several respondents stress the need to balance wildlife and habitat improvements with competing pressures such as food production, housing, and green energy, as well as historic land use – showing some concern of the LNRS risking prioritising environmental goals without adequately weighing wider social and economic realities.

In particular, comments suggest the LNRS as drafted does not adequately consider its impact on food production, with two suggested reviews of the Government Food Strategy 2022 for input into the strategy – indicating a perception that the LNRS is 'at odds' with this – another suggesting targeting land-use change at the least-productive farmed land area for environmental benefits and increased yield.

Deer and woodland management challenges

One respondent provides additional comment about deer control, highlighting that while this is a difficult issue, it must be addressed, with 'catastrophic' populations making woodland regeneration harder and more expensive. There was suggestion that this was missing from the strategy but that tackling this issue would be integral to the recovery of woodland areas. Alongside this, other comments caution 'overdoing' woodland creation as a quick win for BNG, urging for the retention of varied farmland mosaic and linking habitats.

Observations vs general feedback

When comparing the responses from farmers and landowners with the general feedback from all consultation submissions, a difference in sentiment emerges regarding the question *Do you agree or disagree that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region?* Overall, the farmer and landowner responses demonstrated less agreement with the proposals, with no strong agreement in favour. Levels of disagreement and strong disagreement were notably higher within this group, with 30.0% expressing disagreement, compared to just 9.5% across the full to the consultation submissions. Despite this divergence in sentiment, the themes raised by farmers and landowners aligned with those seen in the wider consultation feedback, indicating that while levels of support varied, the key issues and priorities identified were broadly consistent.

Overview

A total of 20 respondents identified as farmers or landowners, representing 5.6% of all survey participants and 18.3% of organisational respondents. While this provides a useful perspective from a group central to the success of nature recovery, the turnout is relatively modest given the size and importance of the farming community across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Overall, this level of engagement offers insight into landowner sentiment but suggests that further outreach and dialogue with farmers and landowners will be critical to ensure their views are fully represented and to build confidence in the strategy.

Additional submissions

Summary of respondents

Overview of numbers

A total of 46 email or letter responses were submitted to the LNRS team by way of input to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS. Removing duplicate emails, correspondence trails and responses that were incorporated as feedback directly by the LNRS team and therefore didn't warrant separate oversight, there were 30 email and letter responses reviewed as additional submissions.

In addition, there were 5 surveys that were submitted after the closing date for submissions. While not included in the quantitative and qualitative data analysis of the main report, overall sentiment and themes of these survey submissions have been shared here as part of the additional submissions section.

Type of respondents

Of the 35 additional submissions reviewed (30 email and letter responses combined with 5 survey submissions submitted after the closing date), the mix of individuals and organisations is represented here.

The percentages below are calculated out of 35 additional submissions.

An individual	An organisation (not as an individual)
6 (17.1%)	**29** (82.9%)

Below is a list of unique organisations/others that submitted email or letter responses to the consultation:

- Anglian Water
- Biodiversity and Greenspaces Team
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- Cambridge Conservation Initiative
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre
- Cambridgeshire Geological Society
- Clare College
- Deeping Gate
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group
- Grantchester PCC Church
- Fenland District Council
- Kingfishers Bridge Reserve
- Horseheath Parish Council
- Linton-Bruce Ltd
- Maydencroft
- Middle Level Commissioners
- National Trust - Midlands & East of England
- Natural England
- Stantec UK Limited BGO Newton Propco
- Stantec Royal London Mutual Insurance
- St Peters Coveney
- The Four Cs MAT
- The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
- Woodland Trust

Below is the complete list of unique organisations/others that submitted survey submissions after the closing date for submissions:

- British Land
- Cambridge Past, Present & Future
- Cam Valley Forum
- Huntingdonshire District Council

Summary of feedback

Letter and email responses

There is a general tone throughout the letter and email responses that is strongly supportive of the objectives of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS. A good proportion of these responses focus on mapping queries or comments on specific species or habitats, as might be expected of responses that look to target particular aspects of environmental concern rather than providing a full and complete survey response.

Many respondents welcome the ambition of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS to align with national environmental goals, praising the evidence base, spatial mapping, and detailed habitat actions.

Some submissions argue that the draft LNRS uses a '*broad brush approach*' to mapping that fails to reflect recent planning permissions or ongoing biodiversity projects, risking conflict or duplication. Landowners and developers stress the need for clarity on the planning weight of LNRS designations, while conservation groups urge the inclusion of overlooked sites such as Wandlebury Ring. There are also comments that the map should remain a '*live document… continually updated and refined*' with relevant new data.

In line with this, a large proportion of the email and letter responses refer to mapping queries, making specific requests relating to additions or removals of land. These have been assessed and reviewed by the LNRS team in accordance with the agreed review process.

Tree planting, hedgerow restoration and 'tree equity' in deprived urban areas are widely supported through these submissions. Comments note the county's woodland cover (below the national average at 4.8%) and call for ambitious canopy-cover targets (19% by 2050), mapped protections for ancient woodland and veteran trees, and stronger integration of Local Wildlife Sites and hedgerow corridors to be part of the LNRS.

Wetlands, chalk streams and peat soils feature strongly as habitat priorities for focused protection and restoration. Respondents welcome the strategy's recognition of these habitats but feel the urgency is underplayed. Others highlight the historic draining of the Fens as a source of social and environmental harm, urging the LNRS to acknowledge its legacy and hold larger organisations and landowners accountable for restoration.

Contributors are '*surprised*' that churchyards receive only passing mention despite being '*rich in flora and fauna*' and having a history of being managed for biodiversity for centuries. Respondents urge the LNRS to explicitly map and support churchyards, as well as similar long-established green spaces, citing local conservation award schemes as models.

Responses also emphasise inequities in access to nature and the need for stronger safeguards against greenwashing or displacement. Comments call for longer consultation periods, stronger regulation of developers, and funding for low-income communities to improve local nature provision. There is widespread agreement that communities are often already 'empowered'

but lack resources, with a sentiment that the LNRS should not imply equal responsibility for restoration without recognising these disparities.

Overall, themes from the email and letter responses align closely with those seen in the qualitative and quantitative survey results from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS public consultation.

Of particular note are how concerns about agricultural intensification and calls for mandatory nature-based solutions are consistent across both the email and letter responses and survey results. Meanwhile the survey's emphasis on the need for better developed mapping matches multiple comments in the email and letter responses.

Also consistent is how the survey's commentary on concerns around delivery and implementation are echoed in organisational comments seen in the email responses. Equally, the survey's comments about rivers, flooding and chalk streams are well supported by Anglian Water's strong support for nutrient reduction, wetland creation and rare chalk stream protection, as seen in their email response.

Taken together, the feedback via letters and email responses portrays a county eager to partner on nature recovery but insistent on a strategy that is inclusive, evidence-based, and realistically deliverable. Essential themes include urgent wetland and peatland restoration, fairer access to green space, recognition of undervalued habitats such as churchyards, stronger accountability for powerful enactors, and more precise, dynamic mapping aligned with planning.

Comments repeatedly stress that communities should not be left carrying disproportionate responsibility without resources, and that the LNRS must back its ambition with clear targets, adequate funding and participatory processes.

Survey submissions received after the closing date

The sentiment demonstrated in the 5 survey responses submitted after the closing deadline of 11 September 2025 remain broadly supportive of the LNRS's ambition but also echo and reinforce concerns raised in the main survey. They highlight issues around mapping omissions and usability, specifically recommending the inclusion of overlooked spaces such as allotments (such as Coton Allotment and Whitehill Allotment) and other named local sites.

Respondents also call for evidence-based mapping, clearer layering of data (such as Local Wildlife Sites only appearing at certain zoom levels), and the need for expert ecological assessments and site-specific reviews before designations are finalised.

There is also strong emphasis on text clarity and presentation. Comments note duplicated actions ('*U2D and U2E are the same*') or vague wording (eg, '*collaborate with cross-boundary partners*') and suggestions are made around drawing on examples of good practice from other LNRSs. Calls for shorter summaries, clearer section links, and cross-references between actions mirror earlier feedback that the strategy is too lengthy and difficult to navigate online.

Respondents also raise implementation and monitoring issues, recommending the funding and preparation of Catchment Plans for all rivers, ongoing data collection, and adaptive management. Additional points include support for heathland as a priority habitat, concern over development pressures, and suggestions for legislating automated bird scarers to protect wildlife. One respondent explicitly aligns the LNRS with Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan, praising shared goals for climate resilience and community wellbeing.

Overall, the feedback within these 5 survey responses was consistent with the wider survey themes – reaffirming the need for updates to mapping, the need for measurable monitoring, and echoing worries about development impacts and the importance of local knowledge.

Footnote: clarification, error and omissions

It is important to note that while responses provide valuable insights, they may not represent the views of all stakeholders or the wider public and are individually representative of those that completed the survey or submitted direct responses by emails/letters.

Some feedback was detailed, while other responses were brief or vague, which can create variation in the depth and interpretability of responses. Another limitation is the potential for survey fatigue, given comments on the length and complexity of the consultation, which may have impacted response rates, or the level of detail provided. It should be noted that the feedback provided by respondents does not always directly align with the specific questions asked in the consultation. In some instances, responses included information or opinions beyond the scope of the questions, addressing broader issues or expressing general sentiments. This has necessitated some interpretation to ensure that the analysis remains as consistent as possible with the survey's original intent.

The findings presented in this document are based on the interpretations and judgements of the review team. While every effort has been made to ensure objectivity and accuracy, some subjective interpretation of responses was necessary to categorise and summarise themes effectively. Different reviewers might interpret certain responses or sentiments differently, particularly where feedback was ambiguous or varied in tone. Therefore, the analysis reflects both the collective insights and the professional discretion of the team. This should be considered when referencing the findings, especially where direct input from respondents is summarised or simplified for clarity. Please refer to the data spreadsheets for full details.